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Environmental, economic damage a concern now that fire out

By JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Businesses and residents expressed concern Monday about the environmental and economic fallout from a fire at a Houston-area petrochemical storage farm that sent huge plumes into the air for days and prompted the partial closure of one of the busiest commercial waterways in the U.S. Officials said it could be several more days before a section of the Houston Ship Channel reopens. Investigators with Harris County, which includes Houston, said they have delivered a subpoena to Intercontinental Terminals Company — the firm that owns the facility — to preserve any evidence regarding the cause of the blaze. Students returned to class after the fire prompted school closures near the facility.

Continued on Page 3



In a Wednesday, March 20, 2019 photo, maritime traffic moves through the Houston Ship Channel past the site of now-extinguished petrochemical tank fire at Intercontinental Terminals Company in Deer Park, Texas.

Associated Press



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AP-NORC Poll: Majority of Americans favor stricter gun laws

By **LISA MARIE PANE and
EMILY SWANSON**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of Americans favor stricter gun laws, and most believe places of worship and schools have become less safe over the last two decades, according to a new poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey was conducted both before and after this month's mass shooting at two mosques in New Zealand. It found that 67 percent of Americans support making US gun laws stricter, while 22 percent say they should be left as they are and 10 percent think they should be made less strict. The New Zealand shooting



In this Thursday, July 26, 2012 file photo, an AR-15 style rifle is displayed at the Firing-Line indoor range and gun shop, in Aurora, Colo.

on March 15 did not appear to have an impact on Americans' support for new gun laws; support for tighter gun laws was the same in interview con-

duct before and after the shooting. While a majority of Americans have consistently said they support stronger gun laws, proposals have stalled repeatedly in Congress in recent years, a marked contrast to New Zealand and some other countries, such as Australia, that have acted swiftly after a mass shooting. Less than a week after the mosque shootings, New Zealand moved to ban "military-style" semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines; similarly, after a mass shooting in 1996, Australia enacted sweeping gun bans within two weeks.

The new poll suggests many Americans would support similar measures, but there's a wide gulf between Democrats and Republicans on banning specific types of guns. Overall, 6 in 10 Americans support a ban on AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons. Roughly 8 in 10 Democrats, but just about 4 in 10 Republicans, support that policy. Republicans are also far less likely than Democrats to think that making it harder to buy a gun would prevent mass shootings, 36 percent

to 81 percent. Overall, 58 percent of Americans think it would.

Still, some gun restrictions get wide support across party lines. Wide shares of both Democrats and Republicans support a universal background check requirement, along with allowing courts to prevent some people from buying guns if they are considered dangerous to themselves or others, even if they have not committed crimes.

In contrast to New Zealand, the United States has enacted few national restrictions in recent years. In part, that's a reflection of gun rights being enshrined in the U.S. Constitution; in a poll by the Pew Research Center in spring of 2017, 74 percent of gun owners said the right to own guns is essential to their own sense of freedom.

That poll also found that gun owners were far more likely than those who don't own guns to contact public officials about gun policy or donate to organizations that take a stance on the issue.

Overall support for stricter gun laws is unchanged since an AP-NORC poll conducted one year ago, a month after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people killed. The post-Parkland poll marked an increase in support for stricter gun laws, from 61 percent in October 2017.

But the strength of that support appears to have ebbed. The percentage who say gun laws should be made much stricter, rather than just somewhat stricter, drifted down slightly after reaching a peak in the post-Parkland poll, from 45 percent then to 39 percent now.

The poll showed a wide share of Americans say safety in churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship has worsened over the past two decades. Sixty-one percent say religious houses have grown less safe over the last two decades. Slightly more said so after the New Zealand shooting than before, 64 percent to 57 percent.

Nearly 7 in 10 believe elementary and high schools have become less safe than they used to be. And 57 percent say the same about colleges and universities.

Charlene Bates, who works in the library at a high school in Idaho, said she believes a combination of factors has made schools less safe than in the past. Mental illness, parents who aren't as engaged in their kids' lives, social media and violent video games are among the reasons she cites for gun violence in schools.

"There are a lot of kids that you're just unsure about, they're kind of unstable," said Bates, 46, from Pocatello, about 235 miles east of Boise. There are some students who are quiet, keep to themselves and she wonders if they're "like a bomb waiting to go off. ... I think that's what scares me the most."

While Idaho is one of the safest places in the United States, she sees coverage of mass shootings and violence elsewhere in the United States and around the world. Her school's resource officer conducted some training recently and "he said it's not if, it's when. This is very likely to happen even in our community."

"We aren't isolated," she said. □

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Environmental, economic damage a concern now that fire out

Continued from Front

Here's a look at what has happened and what to expect:

THE FIRE AND RESPONSE

A massive fire started March 17 at the ITC plant in the suburb of Deer Park, southeast of Houston. It left several petrochemical tanks damaged or destroyed and thrust plumes of black smoke into the air and burned on and off for days.

It's unclear how the blaze began.

On Thursday, residents were warned to stay inside for their own safety because of high levels of benzene in the air.

The chemical evaporates quickly and can cause drowsiness, dizziness, rapid heartbeat, and headaches, with worse symptoms at higher levels of exposure.

Authorities shut down part of the ship channel Friday to traffic to try and continue the cleanup and contain the spill.

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Kevin Oditt said Monday it could be several more days before that part of the channel reopens.

"The priorities remain ensuring the safety of our on-scene responders as well as mitigating any impact to the waterway or the environment and reopening the Houston Ship Channel," Oditt said.

The San Jacinto River, a waterway leading into the ship channel and located north of ITC's facility, was reopened to barge and tow traffic but only for about three hours on Monday.

Oditt said officials have

performed several test runs with ships, letting them pass through the affected area to see if they don't interfere with the cleanup and don't get contaminated. Such test runs will help the Coast Guard determine when the channel can be fully opened.

EFFECTS ON COMMERCE

The Port of Houston is the No. 1 in the U.S. in foreign tonnage and is in the top five in the U.S. in the number of containers it handles.

The head of a maritime trade organization representing more than 200 companies at the port said the closure of several miles of the channel has slowed but not stalled commerce. The top products that pass through the ship channel include resins and plastics, chemicals, fabrics, including raw cotton, and steel and metals.

Capt. Bill Diehl, president of the Greater Houston Port Bureau, said Monday the port is a manufacturing center for petrochemicals and supporting businesses and that those places are still operating but that products may be slow to come in or out right now. Diehl said the channel is 52 miles long and other sections have remained open. As of Monday afternoon, some ships were being slowly taken through the area that had been closed to make sure they didn't disturb the cleanup.

That section, for now, is only open to daylight transits, Diehl said. "It has an effect on business," Diehl said, "but not as much as you'd think."

Diehl said that half of the ships that come into Texas



In a Wednesday, March 20, 2019 file photo, emergency crews continue to douse what's left of the now-extinguished petrochemical tank fire at Intercontinental Terminals Company, in Deer Park.

Associated Press

come through the Port of Houston. He said on average they move 55 ships a day.

WHAT'S NEXT?

ITC is facing legal challenges over the fire and spill.

On Monday, seven people who live near the storage facility filed what is be-

lieved to be the first civil lawsuit against ITC over the fire. The suit was filed in state district court in Houston. □

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GOP turns fury on Schiff over Russian collusion claims

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

“Damning evidence” of collusion with Russia. “More than circumstantial.” A scandal of a size “beyond Watergate.”

For two years, Rep. Adam Schiff, the House Intelligence Committee chairman, seemed to be on every talk and late-night show sounding ominous warnings about what special counsel Robert Mueller might find on President Donald Trump. The California Democrat got the president’s attention — a fact confirmed when Trump turned the congressman’s name into a foul schoolyard taunt. “Wow, Mr. President, that’s a good one,” Schiff tweeted back.



Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, of Calif., leaves a House Democratic meeting in the U.S. Capitol Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, March 25, 2019.

Associated Press

But Mueller found no coordination or conspiracy involving Trump, his campaign and the Russian government, the Justice Department said Sunday. That sparked furious GOP

calls for Schiff to resign from the committee or Congress as the Trump administration went on the offensive, recriminations in mind, with the 2020 elections nearing. “There are a lot of people

out there that have done some very evil things, very bad things, I would say treasonous things against our country,” Trump said Monday in the Oval Office, without elaborating. “Those people will certainly be looked at.”

Whatever kind of examination the president has in mind for “those people,” Schiff appears to be the top of the list.

Schiff, a lawyer who has served in Congress since 2001, ranged far and frequently across the media landscape in interviews about the Mueller investigation. In his sober, mild-mannered style, Schiff at times came close to sounding like he believed Trump had broken the law, Republicans said.

More than any other example, Republicans on Monday pointed to a March, 2017 appearance on MSNBC in which Schiff said “there is more than circumstantial evidence now” of a relationship between Russia and Trump’s associates. In December of that year, Schiff said on CNN: “The Russians offered help, the campaign accepted help. The Russians gave help and the president made full use of that help. That is pretty damning, whether it is proof beyond a reasonable doubt of conspiracy or not.”

And in May of last year, Schiff said on ABC that the Russian trolling of Democratic National Committee emails is “like Watergate in the sense that you had a break in at the Democratic headquarters, in this case a virtual one, not a physical break in, and you had a president as part of a cover up,” he said.

Schiff said later that the Russia investigation is “a size and scope probably

beyond Watergate.” Schiff was defiant on Monday, repeating his assertion that evidence of collusion is in “plain sight.” He said he accepts Mueller’s conclusion that he could not prove a criminal conspiracy with Russia, but said his committee’s investigative work will go on.

“For whatever reason over the last year and a half, the president has viewed me as a threat,” he told The Associated Press. “His allies in Congress have likewise come to his assistance in attacking me. It comes with the job, and I take it as a sign of effectiveness that they feel the need to go after me.”

Schiff is far from the only Democrat to use provocative rhetoric about Trump and his campaign. But it was his words that were getting the most attention from Trump’s re-election campaign and the Republican National Committee, which featured Schiff prominently on lists of Democrats who had publicly suggested a link between Trump and his 2016 campaign, and Russia.

“Now we find out that none of that is true,” House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California told The Associated Press. “He should first apologize to the American public and he should step back from the chairmanship.”

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway went further.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the calls to remove Schiff were “absolutely ridiculous.” She consulted with Schiff and other committee leaders over the weekend as Attorney General William Barr notified Congress of Mueller’s report and summarized the details. □




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An 'extreme stalker' has a Utah family's home under siege

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah family has become the victim of extreme stalking involving unwanted service providers repeatedly being sent to their home, according to the homeowner and police.

Walt Gilmore's family in suburban Salt Lake City has been the target since August of a stalker using phone calls and texts to send a parade of people to the home for legitimate services and illegal activities, the Deseret News reported Friday.

Up to 20 people per day arrive saying they were called to provide electrical, plumbing, tree-trimming, and towing services, according to Gilmore, who said some are seeking illegitimate business.

"They have police records. Criminals. Felons. Active warrants for their arrests coming to my home. They're looking for drugs. They're offering prostitution," Gilmore said. "And it's pretty concerning to me, my family, and my entire neighborhood that these folks are there."

The person responsible may be using a computer program to make calls, and texts appear to originate from another number, making them nearly impossible to trace, according to police, who say they are using voice recognition software to find the suspect.

Gilmore said they have taken out a civil stalking injunction against the person they believe is responsible.



A warning sign and a police officer's vehicle are stationed at Walt Gilmore's home on Thursday, March 21, 2019.

Court records indicate the person named in the injunction lives in Hawaii.

Detectives are looking at multiple suspects, and are not ruling anyone out, North Salt Lake Police Sgt. Mitch Gwilliam said.

"It's pretty vindictive in what they're doing," Gwilliam told the Deseret News. "Stalking is stalking. But this is stalking on steroids. It's pretty vicious."

The calls range from pizzas being sent to Gilmore's office to an environmental cleanup company coming one Saturday morning on a fake call that Gilmore's house was flooding. The

false call cost the company an estimate \$4,000 to round up the workers and drive to the house, Gilmore said.

Police estimate the combined loss to companies is

more than \$20,000 in wages and uncollected fees. Officers have been called to the home at least 80 times since February.

Gilmore said he has spotted people taking pictures

of his house, looking inside his windows late at night, and sitting in cars parked outside — actions he believes were triggered by the suspect hiring people online from a website that pays people to spy on others.

A police car is now parked outside around the clock and Gilmore has put up a large yellow sign in the driveway with "ALERT" in big red letters. Below it says, "If you have been asked to provide any services to this address such as a car tow, home repair, locksmith, plumbing, food deliveries or anything else, please call the North Salt Lake Police."

And at the bottom in bold letters: "We are all victims of this scam."

"I feel trapped in my home. I feel threatened," Gilmore said. "My wife is scared to death constantly. My other family members don't like to go outside because they don't know who's coming. This is very threatening. And it's not only threatening to my family but my entire neighborhood." □

Associated Press

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Avenatti charged with trying to extort millions from Nike

By **BRIAN MELLEY** and **LARRY NEUMEISTER**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Avenatti, the pugnacious attorney best known for representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in lawsuits against President Donald Trump, was arrested Monday on charges that included trying to shake down Nike for as much as \$25 million by threatening the company with bad publicity.

Avenatti, who was also accused of embezzling a client's money to pay his own expenses, was charged with extortion and bank and wire fraud in separate cases in New York and California.

He was arrested at a New York law firm where he had gone to meet with Nike executives.

It was just minutes after he tweeted that he planned to hold a news conference Tuesday to "disclose a major high school/college basketball scandal perpetrated by @Nike that we have uncovered."

"When lawyers use their law licenses as weapons, as a guise to extort payments for themselves, they are no longer acting as attorneys. They are acting as criminals," said Geoffrey S. Berman, the U.S. attorney in New York.

California investigators had been building a case against Avenatti for more than a year, but prosecutors in New York said their investigation began only last week and was completed in days.

In the California case, Avenatti allegedly misused a client's money to pay his debts and those of his coffee business and law firm. Federal prosecutors said he also defrauded a Mississippi bank by using phony tax returns to obtain millions of dollars in loans.

The allegations "paint an ugly picture of lawless conduct and greed," said Nick Hanna, the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles.

Avenatti describes himself on Twitter as an attorney and advocate, but the accusations describe "a cor-



In this Dec. 12, 2018 file photo, Michael Avenatti, lawyer for porn star Stormy Daniels, speaks outside court in New York.

Associated Press



This Friday, Sept. 2, 2016 file photo shows attorney Mark Geragos talking to the media during a news conference in downtown Los Angeles.

Associated Press

rupt lawyer who instead fights for his own selfish interests."

The arrest was a sharp reversal of fortune for the 48-year-old lawyer, who, less than a year ago, emerged as a leading figure in the anti-Trump movement, with relentless cable news appearances, a hard-punching style and a knack for obtaining information about others' wrongdoing.

Avenatti appeared briefly in court Monday evening and was ordered released on \$300,000 bond.

He did not enter a plea, and he did not respond to emails, phone calls or text messages from The Associated Press.

Donald Trump Jr. gloated over the arrest on Twitter.

"Good news for my friend @MichaelAvenatti, if you plead fast enough, you might just get to share a cell with Michael Cohen!" he wrote, referring to the former Trump lawyer set to go to prison next month for

crimes that include orchestrating hush-money payments to Daniels.

Avenatti allegedly threatened to hold a news conference last week on the eve of Nike's quarterly earnings call and the start of the NCAA tournament to announce allegations of misconduct by Nike employees.

The attorney and a co-conspirator demanded to be paid \$15 million to \$25 million and an additional \$1.5 million for an Avenatti client to remain silent, the complaint said.

Two people familiar with the investigation confirmed that the unidentified co-conspirator was Mark Geragos, a Los Angeles criminal defense lawyer known for his work with celebrities. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the information was not made public by prosecutors.

Geragos, a CNN contributor, has a client list that has included Michael Jackson,

Winona Ryder, Scott Peterson and most recently Jussie Smollett, the actor accused of fabricating a racist, anti-gay attack in Chicago.

Geragos did not respond to messages seeking comment. Within hours, CNN cut ties with him.

The Avenatti client is a coach of an amateur athletic union men's basketball program in California, according to the papers.

The AAU program coached by the client was sponsored by Nike for \$72,000 annually, the complaint said.

Shortly before the charges came to light, Avenatti tweeted that he planned to hold another news conference regarding Nike on Tuesday.

Less than 45 minutes later, prosecutors announced the extortion case and his arrest.

While lawyers sometimes make demands to seek out-of-court settlements, they cannot threaten to go public with damaging information to get something of value or gain leverage in a civil dispute, attorney Neema Rahmani said.

"The Department of Justice historically has been very cautious when charging attorneys, so they likely have evidence that Avenatti seriously crossed this line," said Rahmani, a former federal prosecutor.

Nike officials told investigators that Avenatti claimed to know of rules violations by an amateur basketball team sponsored by Nike. Executives immediately reported the threats to federal authorities.

The company "firmly believes in ethical and fair play, both in business and sports, and will continue to assist the prosecutors," Nike said in a statement.

He rose to national prominence by representing Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, in a lawsuit to break a confidentiality agreement to speak about her alleged affair with Trump.

He also made headlines in recent weeks for representing two women who accused R&B star R. Kelly

of sexual abuse, and he briefly explored the idea of a presidential bid last year. Daniels said she was "saddened but not shocked" by the arrest.

She issued a statement Monday on Twitter saying she fired Avenatti a month ago after "discovering that he had dealt with me extremely dishonestly." She said she would not elaborate.

While Avenatti's lawsuit effectively tore up the gag order that threatened financial penalties if Daniels spoke about the case, a defamation lawsuit filed on her behalf against Trump backfired, and a court ordered her to pay the president's \$293,000 in legal fees.

Avenatti himself has been dogged with tax and financial troubles in recent years.

A U.S. bankruptcy court ordered his former firm to pay \$10 million to a lawyer who claimed it had misstated its profits.

The Justice Department also alleged Avenatti made "misrepresentations" in the bankruptcy case and said his former firm still owed more than \$440,000 in unpaid federal taxes, which Avenatti dismissed as "part of a smear campaign." He said he did not personally owe any of the money.

The bank fraud case involved \$4 million in loans he got from Peoples Bank in Biloxi, which prosecutors said he obtained by filing fraudulent tax returns claiming \$14 million in income over three years.

However, he never filed tax returns those years, nor paid the \$2.8 million he reported on the forms. In fact, he still owed more than \$850,000 to the IRS at the time for previous income.

Mark Pearson, the assistant agent in charge of the IRS office in LA, said Avenatti's crimes supported a lavish lifestyle that included a \$200,000-a-month lifestyle, a car racing venture and pricey homes in the wealthy Orange County communities of Newport Beach and Laguna Beach. □



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Newtown dad who probed violence dies in apparent suicide

By **PAT EATON-ROBB** and
MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) —

On the day of his 6-year-old daughter's funeral, as Jeremy Richman and his wife gathered with loved ones, an idea emerged for a way to channel their grief: a foundation to promote research into the brain pathologies that lead to violence.

Within months of the slaying of their curly-haired first-grader Avielle in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, the couple launched The Avielle Foundation with the goal of trying to prevent others from suffering such tragedies.

Richman dedicated himself to the cause, becoming known locally and nationally for his advocacy on mental health issues, up until his death on Monday. He was found dead in an apparent suicide inside a Newtown community event center where he had an office, according to police. He was 49.

"Jeremy made huge strides in brain health and suicide prevention," said Stephanie Cinque, the director of the Resiliency Center of Newtown, set up as a place for people to gather and talk after a socially isolated gunman killed 20 children and six educators on Dec. 14, 2012.

"Very sadly, this is a great example of how complicated it is. Jeremy's legacy now, too, is creating the space for that conversation," she said.

Richman and his wife Jennifer Hensel, both scientists,



In this Nov. 14, 2014 file photo, Jeremy Richman, father of Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting victim Avielle Richman, addresses the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission in Newtown, Conn.

Associated Press

created the foundation to promote research into how a propensity for violence is manifested. Richman, a neuroscientist, eventually left his job as a researcher at a pharmaceutical company to focus full-time on the foundation.

"The brain is just another organ, and you don't have to be a neuroscientist to recognize that it can be healthy, it can be unhealthy, and that you need to feel comfortable advocating for your own brain health and the brain health of your loved ones," Richman said in 2016 interview. "We feel that the failure to do that led in large part to the tragedy at Sandy Hook."

Richman developed a national profile as a lecturer and advocate. He had a meeting on mental health with then-President Barack Obama. In 2015, he received an appointment as a lecturer in psychiatry at Yale's medical school.

Richman also provided "brain health" first aid for

children and others at the Resiliency Center of Newtown.

"He referred to it as 'brain health' because it didn't have the stigma that came with saying 'mental health,'" said Cinque. She said Richman also did a lot of work with suicide prevention.

"He would always say, 'Ask the question.' Because, in general, people don't like to say they are going to commit suicide," she said. Connecticut's governor, two U.S. senators and other local leaders shared stunned condolences.

"Jeremy Richman was a loving husband, father and friend to many," Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal said. "I am proud to say he was my friend. I don't want to speculate as to why Jeremy took his life, except to say none of us can fathom the enormity of loss he carried with him after the death of his beautiful daughter, Avielle."

The foundation said its work would continue.

"Jeremy's mission will be carried on by the many who love him, including many who share the heartache and trauma that he has suffered since December 14, 2012," the foundation said in a written statement. "We are crushed to pieces, but this important

work will continue, because, as Jeremy would say, we have to."

A native of Boulder, Colorado, Richman earned his undergraduate degree and doctorate at the University of Arizona.

In addition to his wife, he survived by two children. □

New Jersey orders cleanup of clothing, cookware chemicals

By **WAYNE PARRY**
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey is ordering five companies that manufacture chemicals used to stain-proof clothing and produce non-stick cookware to spend what could be hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up contamination from the substances.

The state Department of Environmental Protection Monday ordered the manufacturers to provide a detailed account of their use and discharge of so-called PFAS substances over the years.

The firms — Solvay, DuPont, Dow DuPont, Chemours and 3M — also must pay to clean up any contamination they caused. If they refuse or drag their feet, they could be charged three times the amount of money the state spends to deal with the problem.

The substances are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they do not break down, and tend to accumulate in the air, water, soil and even fish. They can harm fetuses and newborns, and have been associated with kidney and testicular cancer, auto-immune illnesses and decreased response to vaccines, according to the state. They have been used for more than 60 years and have become staples of modern life for consumers who want to protect their clothing from stains or water, and prevent food from sticking to cookware. They have been used in brands such as Stainmaster, Scotchgard, Teflon, Gore-Tex, and Tyvek, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

"In issuing this directive, we are putting these five companies on notice that many years of contaminating New Jersey's precious drinking water and other natural resources will not go unchecked," said Catherine McCabe, New Jersey's environmental protection commissioner. "On behalf of all New Jerseyans, we will hold these companies accountable and insist that they step up to address the problem they have created." □

UK lawmakers seize Brexit agenda in bid to break deadlock

By JILL LAWLESS
LORNE COOK

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers seized a measure of control over the stalled Brexit process from Prime Minister Theresa May's foundering government Monday, setting up a series of votes that could dramatically alter the course of the U.K.'s departure from the European Union.

The move came after May conceded that Parliament would defeat her twice-rejected divorce deal with the EU again if she put it to a third vote.

With Brexit delayed and the new departure date up in the air, the House of Commons voted to give itself temporary control of the parliamentary timetable starting on Wednesday so lawmakers can vote on alternatives to May's withdrawal deal. The government usually controls the scheduling of votes in Parliament.

Lawmakers who backed Monday's motion, which passed 329-302, hope the planned "indicative votes" will narrow the options down to one that can secure majority support. Possible options include a "soft Brexit" that maintains close economic ties with the EU or scrapping Britain's departure altogether.

Three government ministers quit their posts so they could back the motion. Richard Harrington, who resigned as a junior business minister, accused the government of "playing rou-



Protesters for opposing views face off against each other, with pro-Brexit split from Europe at right, and pro-Europe anti Brexit at left, outside parliament in London, Monday March 25, 2019.

Associated Press

lette with the lives and livelihoods of the vast majority of people in this country" by failing to resolve Britain's Brexit impasse.

The government said it was disappointed by the vote, claiming it "upends the balance between our democratic institutions and sets a dangerous, unpredictable precedent for the future." But it also conceded that the new votes might be a way to break the months-long Brexit gridlock. May said she would "engage constructively" with the results of the process, though she said she was skeptical that it would produce a decisive result.

The move raises the chances that Britain will tack toward a softer Brexit, and is likely to be welcomed by

the EU. Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, tweet that it was an "opportunity to build a cross-party cooperation leading to an enhanced political declaration & a closer future relationship!"

Earlier in the day, May acknowledged, "with great regret," that her deal still lacked "sufficient support" to be approved as of Monday.

She said she hoped to hold a third vote on the agreement later this week and was working to build support for the deal, which sets out the terms of withdrawing from the EU and the outline of future relations with the bloc.

May warned opponents that continuing to reject

the deal could lead to a "slow Brexit" that postpones the country's departure indefinitely.

With the March 29 Brexit day set almost two years ago days away and the withdrawal agreement lacking Parliament's approval, European leaders agreed to a postponement last week to avoid a chaotic cliff-edge departure that would be disruptive for the world's biggest trading bloc and deeply damaging for Britain.

However, the EU granted a shorter delay than May sought. It said if Parliament approves the proposed divorce deal, the U.K. would leave the EU on May 22. If not, the government has until April 12 to tell the 27 remaining EU countries what

it plans to do - leave without a deal, cancel Brexit or chart a path to a new option.

In agreeing to the postponement, European leaders hoped Britain's deadlocked politicians would find a solution to the crisis. But the EU isn't counting on it. The European Commission said Monday it had completed planning for a no-deal Brexit, calling that outcome "increasingly likely."

The EU said its members would be able to cope with a no-deal departure, although more remained to be done on ensuring an open border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland — something both sides have agreed to. Checkpoints there were a source of tension and a target during the decades of sectarian violence before Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. An EU official said the bloc was in "in intense discussions with the Irish authorities about these matters." May stands little chance of getting the deal she struck with the EU approved unless she can win over Brexit-backing lawmakers in her Conservative Party and its Northern Irish ally, the Democratic Unionist Party. The DUP said Monday that the party's "position remains unchanged."

The prime minister has come under intensifying pressure in recent days to quit as the necessary price for winning support for the deal. □

Macron hopes protester, 73, gains 'wisdom' after injuries

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron said in a newspaper interview Monday he hoped a 73-year-old yellow vest protester who suffered serious head injuries after being charged by police in Nice gains "wisdom" over the incident. Anti-globalization activist Genevieve Legay remained hospitalized after riot police carrying shields suddenly pushed toward people defying a



In this Saturday, March 23, 2019 file picture, anti-globalization activist Genevieve Legay, 73, lies unconscious after collapsing on the ground during a protest in Nice, southeastern France, as part of the 19th round of the yellow vests movement.

Associated Press

protest ban Saturday. An Associated Press reporter saw Legay, who was waving a rainbow flag marked "Peace" and holding a yellow vest, fall to the pavement as blood spilled from her head. In an interview published in Nice Matin on Monday, Macron suggested Legay didn't behave "responsibly," saying that "fragile" people shouldn't attend "places that are defined as prohibited." "I wish her a speedy recovery," he added.

French authorities banned protests in several areas Saturday, and Nice was under extra security because the city was preparing for the arrival of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Attac, the group that Legay is a member of, is pushing back, saying Monday it is filing a complaint for "voluntary violence" on a vulnerable person by a person holding "public authority." □

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<p>TANQUI LEENDERT 139</p>  <p>4 Bed - 3 Bath, Fully Furnished Full renewed, Gourmet Kitchen land: 414 m² / 4,456 Ft² Home: 230 m² / 2,476 Ft² Afl 668.000 \$ 375.000</p>	<p>PIEDRA PLAAT 5 K</p>  <p>3 Bed - 2 Bath, Swimming-pool New, Garage, Fully Furnished land: 472 m² / 5,081 Ft² Home: 140 m² / 1,507 Ft² Afl 693.000 \$ 389.000</p>	<p>PALM BEACH 320</p>  <p>4 Bed - 3 Bath, w/guest casita Hotel area, Fully Furnished land: 520 m² / 5,597 Ft² Home: 250 m² / 2,691 Ft² Afl 801.000 \$ 450.000</p>	<p>PARADERA 179 G</p>  <p>3 Houses in One, over 489m² of Land H.1: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft² H.2: 2Bed - 2Bath; 103m²/1109Ft² H.3: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft² Afl 850.000 \$ 478.000</p>	<p>BUBALI LAND</p>  <p>14,160 m² / 152,418 Ft² of PRIVATE PROPERTY LAND 2 blocks from Cheng Supermarket & 5 Blocks from Superfood Afl 1.203.600 \$ 676.180</p>

Ethiopian Airlines says pilots got appropriate training

By ELIAS MESERET

Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

— Ethiopian Airlines' CEO says the pilots who flew the plane that crashed on March 10 had trained on "all appropriate simulators," rejecting reports that they had not been adequately prepared to handle the new aircraft.

Tewolde Gebremariam said in a statement Monday that the airline owns simulators to help pilots train on the Boeing 737 Max, which has software installed that requires new training. The software can pitch the plane's nose down in some cases to keep it from stalling.

There is speculation that the software could have contributed to the crash, which killed 157 people, as well as to the crash of another Boeing 737 Max, a Lion Air flight, in October. Regulators say both planes had similar erratic flight paths shortly after take-off, an important part of their decision to ground the roughly 370 Max planes around the world.

Boeing Co. is likely facing heavy costs to update the flight-control software on the Max and compensate airlines that have lost use of now-parked Max jets.

Separately, Boeing's European rival Airbus an-



Tewolde Gebremariam, Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines, poses for a photograph after speaking to The Associated Press at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Saturday, March 23, 2019.

nounced a deal to sell 300 planes to Chinese airlines, which are also major operators of the Max. The deal — signed before Chinese President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron — includes 290 Airbus A320 jets, which compete with the Boeing 737. The number that are A320neo jets, the chief competitor to the Boeing Max, will be determined later, an Airbus spokeswoman said.

China's demand for airliners is huge, and it could still order plenty more Boeing

jets, but the announcement highlighted the peril Boeing faces in restoring airline and passenger confidence in its best-selling jet. After the Lion Air crash off the coast of Indonesia, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing issued new training material for pilots. Questions lingered, however, whether the required training was sufficient and whether airlines like Ethiopian had access to simulators to give pilots thorough experience handling the software.

Gebremariam said Ethio-

pian Airlines owns and operates a Boeing 737 Max simulator.

"Contrary to some media reports, our pilots who fly the new model were trained on all appropriate simulators," Gebremariam said. "The crews were well trained on this aircraft."

The CEO, however, had told The Associated Press this weekend that he thinks the warnings and extra training material from Boeing and U.S. regulators "might not have been enough."

He said in a subsequent interview to The Wall Street

Journal on Monday that it appeared that the anti-stall software had been activated on the Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed, though it was still too early to be sure.

Ethiopian Airlines is widely seen as Africa's best-managed airline. It had been using five of the Max planes and was awaiting delivery of 25 more.

Boeing is updating the plane's anti-stall software and has invited more than 200 pilots, technical experts and regulators to its factory in Renton, Washington, for a briefing.

The Federal Aviation Administration expects Boeing's update this week.

As part of the update, Boeing said it is tweaking the anti-stall software. After the update, the system will rely on data from more than one sensor before it automatically pushes the plane's nose lower. The system won't repeatedly push the nose down, and it will reduce the magnitude of the change. A Boeing spokesman on Monday said the company was continuing to determine the cost of updating the flight-control software and related changes. He declined to comment on whether the company would compensate airlines whose jets have been grounded. □

Israel hits targets across Gaza after rocket attack

By **JOSEF FEDERMAN**
FARES AKRAM

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces on Monday struck targets across the Gaza Strip in response to a surprise rocket attack from the Palestinian territory, as the military bolstered its troops and rocket-defense systems in anticipation of a new round of heavy fighting with the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Israel opened public bomb shelters in most major cities and civil defense authorities canceled sports events and public transportation in southern Israel. As Israeli aircraft pounded Gaza, Hamas' leadership went into hiding.

"Israel will not tolerate this. I will not tolerate this," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared during a White House meeting with President Donald Trump.

"Israel is responding forcefully to this wanton aggression," he said. "We will do whatever we must do to defend our people and defend our state."

Several airstrikes were heard throughout Gaza, including a powerful blast that destroyed a multistory building in Gaza City. Israel said the building had served as a Hamas military intelligence headquarters. The explosion was so powerful it sent debris flying onto the roof of The Associated Press bureau, located on the 11th floor of a nearby high-rise.

The sudden conflagration came at a time when both Netanyahu and his Hamas foes are in desperate situations.

Netanyahu is in a tight race for re-election, and just two weeks before the April 9 vote, faces tough criticism from challengers who accuse him of being too soft on Hamas.

In Washington to celebrate the U.S. recognition of Israel's control of the Golan Heights, Netanyahu instead was forced to cut short his trip under heavy pressure to strike back at Hamas.

Hamas' leader, Ismail Haniyeh, issued a statement warning Israel against

heavy retaliation. He said the Palestinian people "will not surrender" and its militant factions "will deter the

authoritarian government. Hamas responded with a violent crackdown, beating and arresting dozens

Monday's attack came 10 days after rockets were fired from Gaza toward Israel's densely populated

with a range of 120 kilometers (75 miles), making it one of the deepest rocket strikes ever carried out by Hamas.

Lifshitz added that two armor and infantry brigades were being mobilized to the Gaza front and that a limited drafting of reserves was also taking place.

The cities of Tel Aviv and Beersheba opened public bomb shelters. Civil defense officials canceled sporting matches and train service in southern Israel. Schools were ordered to hold classes in bomb shelters, and large public gatherings were banned.

The family home in Mishmeret was left in ruins, with tiles, broken furniture and debris scattered about. A shattered baby's crib lay among the rubble and two family dogs died in the explosion.

"I nearly lost my family," said Robert Wolf, grandfather of the injured residents. "If we hadn't gotten to the bomb shelter in time, I would now be burying all my family."

Netanyahu came under heavy criticism from allies and opponents for what they say has been an ineffective policy containing Gaza militants. He has conducted indirect cease-fire talks through Egyptian mediators in recent months, and even allowed the delivery of millions of dollars of Qatari aid to Hamas to ease harsh conditions in Gaza.

"The reality in which Hamas turned Israel into a hostage is unprecedented and unfathomable," his chief challenger, Benny Gantz, wrote on Twitter on Monday. Gantz is a former military chief who led the army during the last Gaza war in 2014.

Netanyahu also came under attack from his own nationalistic allies.

"Israel's deterrence has collapsed, and it has to be said in all honesty Netanyahu has failed against Hamas," said Education Minister Naftali Bennett, head of the Yamin HeHaddash faction in Netanyahu's coalition. □



Police officers inspect the damage to a house hit by a rocket in Mishmeret, central Israel, Monday, March 25, 2019.

Associated Press

enemy if it exceeds the red lines."

In Beirut, the powerful Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, met Monday with a Hamas delegation led by top official Saleh Arouri. Hezbollah said they discussed the Gaza situation and "Israeli aggression." Hamas is facing perhaps its domestic test since seizing control of Gaza from the rival Palestinian Authority 12 years ago.

An Israel-Egyptian blockade, imposed to weaken Hamas, combined with sanctions by the Palestinian Authority and mismanagement by the Hamas government, have all fueled an economic crisis that has left Gaza with an unemployment rate above 50 percent.

Hamas has been leading weekly protests along the Israeli border for the past year in hopes of easing the blockade, but the demonstrations, in which some 190 people have been killed by Israeli fire, have done little to improve conditions.

Last week, hundreds of Gazans took to the streets to protest the dire conditions, a rare expression of public discontent against the

of protesters and drawing rare public criticism.

The rocket attack, which caught Israel off guard, may have been an attempt by Hamas to divert attention from its growing domestic woes.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars, most recently in 2014. Although neither side appears to have an interest in a full-fledged war, fighting could easily spin out of control. The 2014 conflict lasted 50 days and ended with over 2,000 Palestinian deaths, including hundreds of civilians, and 73 killed on the Israeli side.

Netanyahu faces the difficult task of delivering a tough blow to Hamas while avoiding protracted fighting that could work against him on election day.

Yaakov Amidror, a former national security adviser to Netanyahu, said a mild response was not an option. "It will be something on a bigger scale," he said.

"He doesn't want a war before elections, but they put him in a corner," he added. "After three missiles reaching the heart of Israel, the chance of a big escalation including a ground offensive, is very high."

commercial capital of Tel Aviv, and the Israeli military struck back. Gaza's Hamas leaders said the rocket was fired accidentally and the fighting quickly subsided. The sounds of air raid sirens jolted residents of the Sharon area, northeast of Tel Aviv, shortly after 5 a.m. Monday, sending them scurrying to bomb shelters. A strong sound of an explosion followed.

The rocket destroyed a residential home in the farming community of Mishmeret, wounding six members of a family. The Magen David Adom rescue service said it treated seven people, including two women who were moderately wounded. The others, including two children and an infant, had minor injuries.

The Israeli military said Hamas militants fired the rocket from southern Gaza. It said its Iron Dome rocket-defense system was not activated because the attack in central Israel had not been anticipated. The army added it was reinforcing its missile defense batteries in preparation for an escalation.

Maj. Mika Lifshitz, a military spokeswoman, said it was a self-manufactured rocket

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Thai parties jostle for power after 1st election since coup

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA
STEPHEN WRIGHT

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A military-backed party that based on unofficial results won the most votes in Thailand's first election since a 2014 coup said Monday that it would try to form a government, after a rival party also claimed it had the right to govern.

The conflicting claims following Sunday's election highlight the deep divisions in Thailand, which has been wracked by political instability for nearly two decades.

Uttama Savanayana, the head of the Palang Pracharat party that is backed by junta leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, said it would contact like-minded parties to form a new administration.

But earlier Monday, Sudarat Keyuraphan, leader of the Pheu Thai party that was ousted in the 2014 coup, said it would try to form a government because it won the most con-



Senior leaders of Pheu Thai party, from left Virod Pao-In, leader and Phumtam Wechayachai, Secretary General hold a press conference at party head quarters in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, March 24, 2019.

stituency races. The party is allied with exiled Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra.

"As we have said before, the party with the most seats is the one that has received the confidence from the people to set up the government," Sudarat

said. But the party faces an uphill battle because selection of the next prime minister will be decided by the 500-member lower house as well as a 250-member junta-appointed Senate.

The Election Commission announced the results of

350 constituency races but said full vote counts, which are needed to determine the allocation of 150 other seats in the House of Representatives, won't be available until Friday.

Unofficial results show Palang Pracharat had

Associated Press

the highest popular vote, which along with the appointed Senate puts Prayuth in a relatively strong position to stay in office and cobble together a coalition government. Analysts say the next government is likely to be unstable and short-lived, whichever party leads it.

The election is the latest chapter in a nearly two-decade struggle pitching conservative forces including the military against the political machine of Thaksin, a tycoon who upended tradition-bound Thailand politics with a populist political revolution.

Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a 2006 military coup and now lives in exile abroad to avoid a prison term, but parties allied with him have won every election since 2001. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who led the Pheu Thai government that was ousted in 2014, also fled the country after what supporters said was a politically motivated prosecution. □

Russia savors Mueller's report but expects tensions to stay

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia savored an "I told you so" moment Monday after special counsel Robert Mueller found no collusion between President Donald Trump's campaign and Moscow. Government officials also dismissed the extensive evidence uncovered by Mueller of Russian cyber-meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

"It's hard to find a black cat



In this Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019 file photo, people walk in Red Square on a cold day, with St. Basil's Cathedral in the background, in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

taxpayer money stemming from the Democrats' effort to discredit Trump.

"Colossal efforts and significant taxpayers' funds have been spent to refute a clear fake," it said.

Russian authorities over the past months have described the Mueller probe in a language strikingly similar to that of Trump, denouncing it as politically driven witch hunt.

Russian state-owned Channel One suggested that U.S. media had been deliber-

ately whipping up hysteria about possible collusion to turn American public opinion against Russia.

"There were so many fake scoops: the one about the non-existent back channel between Washington and Moscow, the one about the so-called Russia Dossier with the Kremlin's alleged compromising information on Trump," said Channel One's U.S. correspondent, Yulia Olkhovskaya. "But will the viewers hear the rebuttals now?" □

Puerto Rico to take over storm fund reimbursement from FEMA

By **DANICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Federal officials say they are giving Puerto Rico's government greater authority to issue hurricane recovery funds, a measure that should help speed reimbursement for cities and agencies trying to rebuild after the damage wrought by Hurricane Maria.

Officials said that starting April 1, the U.S. territory will no longer have to wait for approval from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency before issuing reimbursements.

There's currently an average two-month wait for reimbursement after people submit all required documents. Under the upcoming change, 75 percent of funds will be issued within three weeks after a request is submitted, with the remaining amount issued once the project is finished, said Omar Marrero, executive director of Puerto Rico's Office of Recovery and Reconstruction.

Puerto Rico's government has 130 requests for reimbursements pending, representing a total of roughly



This June 18, 2018, file photo shows an aerial view of the Amelia neighborhood in the municipality of Catano, east of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

\$600 million, according to Marrero's office.

Michael Byrne, FEMA's federal disaster recovery coordinator in Puerto Rico, said he is confident the island has implemented sufficient policies and regulations to ensure that federal funds will be correctly spent. He also rejected criticism

that FEMA has been slow in distributing funds since the Category 4 storm hit on Sept. 20, 2017, causing more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage.

"The perception that we're dragging our feet or withholding money is wrong," he said. "That said, we need some documenta-

Associated Press

tion." While FEMA will no longer review or approving reimbursement requests, it will conduct quarterly audits.

"This is probably going to be the most audited disaster in U.S. history," Marrero said.

Puerto Rico has so far received nearly \$3 billion from

FEMA through the public assistance grant program. FEMA has issued another \$2 billion for individual assistance.

Puerto Rico also has received \$1.5 billion in community development block grant disaster recovery funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, the U.S. Government Accountability Office published a report on Monday stating that Puerto Rico had not drawn down any of the money.

The report said HUD lacks sufficient guidance for employees reviewing paperwork related to those funds and that it has not completed monitoring or workforce plans.

"Congress should consider permanently authorizing a disaster assistance program that meets unmet needs in a timely manner," the report stated.

HUD said in a statement that it historically takes grantees several years to disburse disaster recovery funding. It also said it will impose strict financial controls on funds issued to Puerto Rico. □

Large new blackout strikes Venezuelan capital, provinces

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A widespread new power outage spread across Venezuela on Monday, knocking offline much of the country's communications and stirring fears of a repeat of the chaos almost two weeks ago during the nation's largest-ever blackout.

The outage began shortly after 1 p.m. (1700 GMT) and appeared to have affected as many as 16 of Venezuela's 23 states, according to reports on social media.

Like the previous outage, officials blamed opponents who with the support of the U.S. had carried out sabotage on the Guri dam — source of the bulk of Venezuela's electricity.

They said the "attack" had already been controlled, with service restored in



People walk home during a power outage that suspended the subway in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, March 25, 2019.

Associated Press

much of the country already and remaining areas expected to come online in the coming hours.

"The damage that took 5 or 6 days to repair in the electrical system after the first attack carried out by the right-wing we recovered today in a few hours," Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez said in a

televised address.

But those reassurances, similar to ones last time around, did little to calm the anger of residents in Caracas who even as he was talking filled traffic-clogged streets as they walked their way home after subway service in the capital was suspended. Like other small business

owners, 27-year-old restaurant manager Lilian Hernandez was bracing for the worst even as service started flickering back on in parts of Caracas.

"We Venezuelans suffer all kinds of problems," said Hernandez, who had just recently managed to restock food that spoiled during the previous outage. "We need a real solution that doesn't obey to political interests."

The Trump administration, which has made no secret of its desire to remove the embattled socialist, has denied any role in the outages. Electricity experts and opposition leader Juan Guaido faults years of government graft and incompetence.

"This outage is evidence that the dictator is incapable of resolving the crisis," Guaido wrote on Twit-

ter Monday. Meanwhile, as Venezuela's economic and political crisis deepens, many seem resigned to continuous disruptions in their daily routines.

"The important thing is for people not to get desperate," said William Rodriguez, who sells books at a kiosk under a downtown highway overpass.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government warned Russia that the reported dispatch of military personnel to Venezuela was increasing tensions there.

U.S. State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday and said "the United States and regional countries will not stand idly by" while Russia takes steps to support its ally, Maduro. □

LOCAL



Free lecture at University about Island Studies Research

ORANJESTAD — The keynote speaker of the upcoming “International Conference on Small Island States and Sub-National Island Jurisdictions”, Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino, will present a free public lecture this Thursday about sub-state and subnational jurisdictions: “Woke up, got out of bed, dragged a comb across my head: A day in the life of a SNIJ resident.”

The first ever conference to discuss life, governance, and global engagement on, for, and with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) is on at the University of Aruba, starting today. The conference is hosted by the University of Aruba, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (COE) and

the UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability, which is shared between the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) in Canada and the University of Malta. The dates are March 26-29, 2019.

Sharing Stories of Island Life, Governance and Global Engagement is the theme and Baldacchino will elaborate on sub-state and sub-national jurisdictions this Thursday evening. Baldacchino is a world-renowned scholar and researcher who has dedicated considerable efforts and energies to the growing field of island studies research – particularly that which seeks to contribute to a greater appreciation for different categories of small island territories.

You are cordially invited to this lecture, please do register ahead via www.ua.aw. □



28 March 2019
Aula, University of Aruba
7.30 – 9.30 PM



Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, non-conformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the

for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

From 8 PM tomorrow night Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live

music in an intimate, hip and offbeat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy. Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



Island Insight

Geo insular patrimony

Episode XI: The Limestone landscape



Article by Etnia Nativa
Call us at 5922702 and book your experience
etnianativa03@gmail.com
DESIGN BY STEFFEN MAAS



Each week we share the most interesting and revealing articles regarding Aruba, a destination to be explored, we can find, and so doing uncover amazing and informative stories along the way.

Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed primarily of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) in the form of the mineral calcite. It most commonly forms in clear, warm, shallow marine waters. It is usually an organic sedimentary rock that forms from the accumulation of shell, coral, algal, and fecal debris. It can also be a chemical sedimentary rock formed by the precipitation of calcium carbonate from lake or ocean water.



Pic. 1. Limestone rock used for fencing, tainted with clay sediment

The areas consisting of Limestone is what today surrounds the Aruba lava formation and the areas which includes the QD conglomerations. Limestone terraces can be best observed at the north and east coast of the Island. However limestone occurs also inland at Isla, Hudishibana, French Man Pass and Canashito for example. These terraces are mostly areas with little vegetation and soil. The limestone areas inland are an exception because these areas are usually bordered by a QD landscape. The combination of limestone and quartz diorite also result's in permanent freshwater sources like the one at Fontein and the one east of Malmok. Rainwater is "caught" by limestone and released at the border where the limestone meets the quartz diorite.

The most important geological feature of the limestone landscape are the caves. They were formed by dissolution of limestone by groundwater and were exposed due to changes in sea level and upwards tectonic movements of the earth. For obvious reason all pre-ceramic sites except a minor one are situated in the limestone areas. At Canashito a group of five individuals belonging to this group were buried in a "habri" open space of a big limestone outcrop. Most pre-ceramic individuals in the ca. 70-persons-cemetery at Malmok were buried under large pieces of limestone. The ceramic sites found on limestone show no signs of long-term habitations as these areas have no suitable agricultural soils (unless they occur in association with a QD landscape). The hydrological conditions are favorable due to some freshwater sources in these areas. One ceramic burial site, Budui, is found in a limestone cave. It is one of the four historic activities that have been recorded in the other caves.

The prehistoric groups used several of the caves for their pictographs. At Fontein, Quadirikiri and Canashito drawings were made inside the limestone caves. At Rooi Thomas and Rincon, the drawings were made in big limestone



Pic 2. Limestone cave at Canashito

"habri" open space. No limestone tools have been found in association with prehistoric groups. The softness of the rock is clearly a limiting factor. A variety of limestone called crystalline limestone has been used to make human figurines. Furthermore, all these categories of rocks can also be divided into crystalline rocks (ALF and batholith) which are impermeable, and limestone, which has the natural components of the more recent Landscape.

In the previous chapter, we suggested that originally there were three main categories of rock, the group from the Aruba Lava formation (mainly diabase), the group from the batholith (quartz diorite) and the

limestone formation. This is basic for our understanding of the soil that we find today on top of the main geologic formations. This soil consists partly of these rocks and is a product of erosion. By erosion we mean all the processes that loosen up rock and existent soil and carry these downhill into the landscape. Besides sand and clay which are erosion products of rocks, the soil also contains humus. This latter is the decay material of organic matter (remains of dead plants, animals, etc.) So, the soil is the surface accumulation of sand, clay and humus, no crystalline structure, and is permeable.

Continued on Page 15



Pic. 3. Canashito limestone cliff

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Episode XI: The Limestone landscape

Continued from Page 14

In general, a soil profile is made up of three units or horizons, the topsoil which contains all kind of decay material, the aforementioned, humus. It is characterized by a darker color. The subsoil has little decay material with coarser rock fragments than the topsoil, and the original rock lying under the soil is the parent or bed rock.

The thickness of these horizons depends on age, climate, vegetation and other factors closely related to the easiness of the soil to be transported. The A horizon is the part of the soil where all biological activity takes place. For this reason it is important for the vegetation and/or cultivation possibilities.

According to the local report, and to our own field observations, this "ideal" stratigraphic situation is extremely rare in Aruba at the present time. The top horizons are thin or absent in most places.

Of importance is the comparison of the few places where such layers can be distinguished and places where both top soil and most of next stratus is missing. The former are mostly areas with significant vegetation or vegetation bordering it.

We'll be back next week with another episode. If you've liked our stories, book your reservation for a personal Etnia Nativa experience through etniana03@gmail.com and take Aruba home with you. □



Article by Etnia Nativa
Call us at 5922702 and book your experience
etniana03@gmail.com
DESIGN BY STEFFEN MAAS



Pic. 4. Mining of Limestone use as gravel has damaged great part of islands landscape for construction activities.

Team Aruba won Gold & Silver at the Special Olympics 2019

ORANJESTAD — It was a succesfull Special Olympics 2019 in Abu Dhabi for Aruba. Digicel as the main sponsor of the Special Olympics Team Aruba is very proud to have taken part in this great event. At the opening ceremony there were 60 thousand people in the stadium, this truly shows the support by the entire world to the special olympics.

From March 14th untill the 21st of 2019 a total of 7.000 athletes from 190 different countries in the world competed at this event. Aruba was also represented at these high level games. Digicel is proud to offer support to the special olympics through money donations, infrastructure support and fundraising events to make the participation of the athletes possible. Lincoln Gomez, Director of Digicel Aruba, is happy to be supporting this organization since the first day Digicel opened her doors on the island. The athlete's achievements in Abu Dhabi show the dedication, passion and commitment that the organization, the family and Digicel have towards the athletes. Digicel would like to congratulate the parents and family members that are always supporting them to push forward.

The results

Miguel Angel Berry	100 meter run	GOLD
Miguel Angel Berry -	Long Jump.	GOLD
Yolanda Altagracia Perez	Softball Throw	SILVER
Jhorzy Arias	Bowling Singles	SILVER
Jhorzy Arias	Double Bowling	GOLD
Rashely Wester Diaz	Bowling Singles	SILVER
Rashely Wester Diaz	Double Bowling	GOLD
Mildred Every	Woman Single	SILVER
Johny Perez	Badminton	Man Single Bronze

Soccer - Group 1 - GOLD: The soccer team won their final game 1-0 against Iceland and Jean Baptiste Woodeney became the goal-getter of the championship with 10 goals in 5 matches.

petanque- Marileen Angela - 4th (Singles)

petanque - Eugene Dirks - 5th



The other 22 countries with participating athlete's also sponsored by Digicel for the Special Olympics are: Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, Cayman, Dominica, El Salvador, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nauru, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago y Vanuatu.

Digicel would like to congratulate the entire delegation and each and every athlete that took part to this event. Digicel aruba will continue investing in the preparations and provide the necessary aid to the Special Olympics Aruba. □



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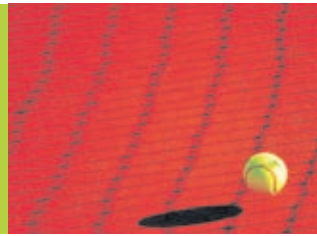
PALM BEACH— Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a lovely couple as Distinguished Visitors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were James and Rosanne Lo-Franco, who commemorated their 10th consecutive visit to the island.

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island especially for the lovely people, the beautiful weather and the amazing staff at Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Heyliger together with representatives of Costa Linda beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □

SPORTS



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout hits an RBI double during the third inning of a preseason baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Mike Trout says he's "an Angel for life" with new contract

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Mike Trout smiled into the postcard-perfect Orange County sunlight and said exactly what every Los Angeles Angels fan has spent years hoping to hear.

"I know there was a lot of talk about going back East, but I enjoy every minute being here," Trout said Sunday. "This is my home. I love it. I think the direction of the franchise, if it was going the other way, I would have had to consider going. But it never crossed my mind. I was going to be an Angel for life, sure."

The crowd around the main entrance to Angel Stadium burst into raucous cheers, and so did Trout's dozens of teammates and coaches in the audience below the podium.

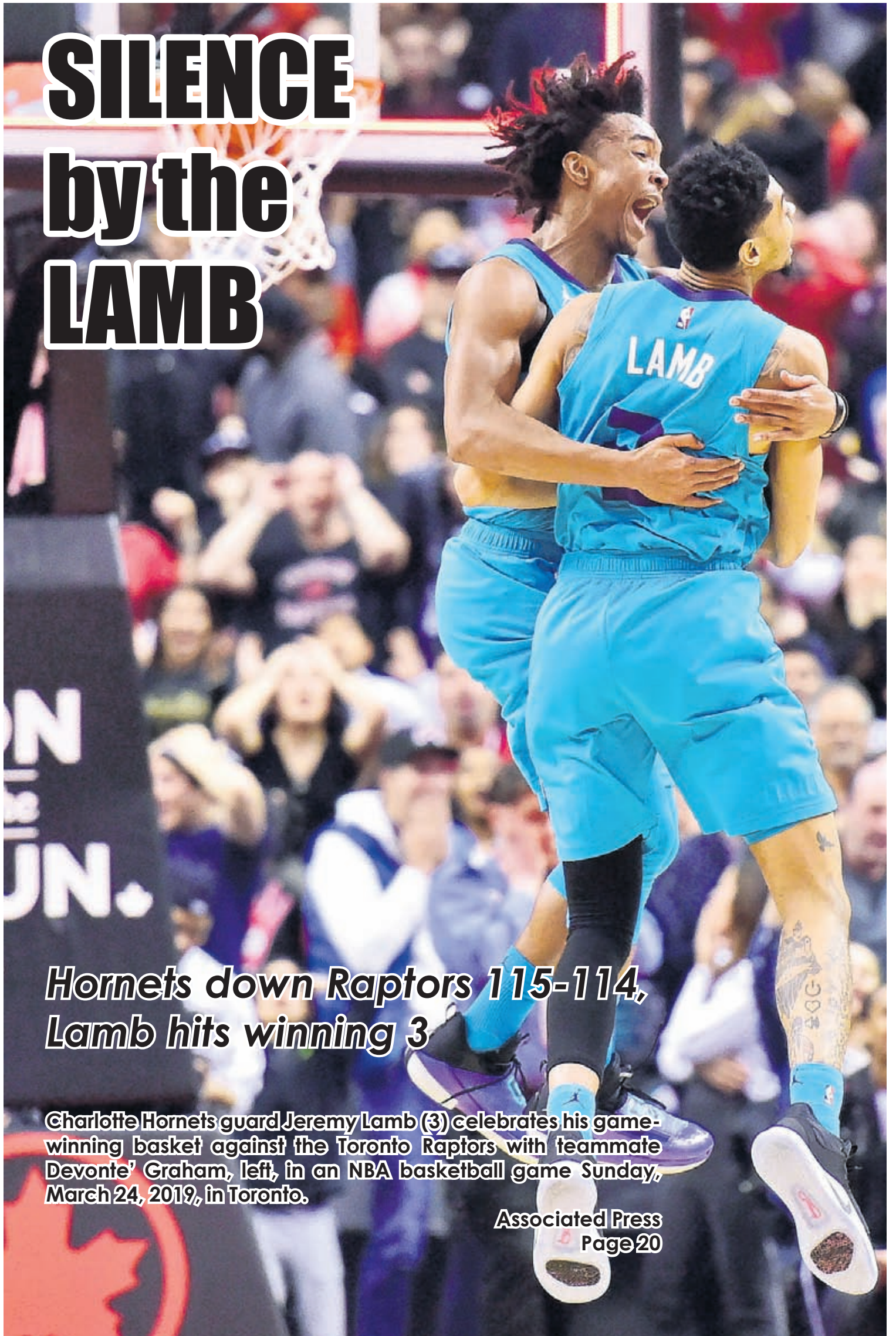
Continued on Page 22

SILENCE by the LAMB

Hornets down Raptors 115-114, Lamb hits winning 3

Charlotte Hornets guard Jeremy Lamb (3) celebrates his game-winning basket against the Toronto Raptors with teammate Devonte' Graham, left, in an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Toronto.

Associated Press
Page 20



Jin Young Ko rallies to win LPGA Tour's Founders Cup

By JOHN NICHOLSON

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Jin Young Ko channeled her inner Dustin Johnson to win for the first time in the United States.

After an even-par 72 left her five strokes back heading into the weekend at the Founders Cup, Ko talked to fellow South Korean player Jennifer Song about the top-ranked PGA Tour star. "She told me Dustin hit so bad and he didn't get angry — put clubs in the bag and just walk," Ko said. "So, I tried like Dustin yesterday and today. I just tried no angry, no happy, just focus."

It worked.

The 23-year-old Ko closed with bogey-free rounds of 64 and 65 at Desert Ridge to rally for a one-stroke victory Sunday. She birdied Nos. 14-16 and parred the final two to finish at 22-under 266, then won when third-round leader Yu Liu missed a 15-foot par putt on the par-4 18th.

Liu shot a 70 to tie for second with playing partner Carlota Ciganda and sisters Jessica and Nelly Korda. Ciganda closed with a 69, Jessica Korda eagled the two back-nine par 5s in a 64, and Nelly Korda shot 66.

Choosing to putt with the flagstick in the hole under golf's new rules, Ko made a



Jin Young Ko poses with the trophy after winning the Founders Cup LPGA golf tournament, Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Phoenix.

4-footer on the par-3 14th, two-putted for birdie on the par-5 15th and made it three in a row from 3½ feet on the par-4 16th.

"Lots of players thinks if there is a pin in the ball might hit the pin and come out," Ko said. "I think it's great to put the pin in because of it makes it easier for me to putt because it is a small target."

A 10-time winner on Korean tour, Ko won the 2017 LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship in South Korea to earn her LPGA Tour card and took the Women's Australian Open last year.

She broke through in the U.S.

on Sunday in the event that honors the 13 women who founded the LPGA Tour, a goal she said she thought about too much last year. "But my friends told me, 'You can do it.' Also my manager and my parents, my caddie, all people say you can," Ko said. "I got lots of confidence for this year. Really good for third win in the States."

Ko has three top-three finishes in four events this year. She was second behind Nelly Korda last month in her Australian title defense and was coming off a third-place tie three weeks ago in Singapore.

The 23-year-old Liu missed a chance to follow Shanshan Feng as the second Chinese winner in tour history. "It was amazing week for me," Liu said. "First time being able to play in the final round, first time being in contention. Didn't handle the way I wanted to, but feel like there is always room for improvements." The former Duke player wasn't sure where she was on the leaderboard playing the 18th.

"I don't know exactly where I stand, if I needed to make birdie or just save par and get to playoff," Liu said. "So I wasn't as focused as I

would've liked. I think that's why I made bogey."

Ciganda played at Arizona State, helping the Sun Devils win the 2009 NCAA title.

"I would've loved to win," the Spaniard said. "Always special here in Phoenix, but I couldn't today."

Jessica Korda returned from a left forearm injury to make her first start of the season.

"Obviously, playing pain-free. It shows," she said.

She parred the last two holes, leaving a 20-footer an inch short on 17 and coming up well short on 18.

"I knew I had to post a low one just to kind of make the girls a little nervous," she said. "A little disappointed with leaving that last putt short because I

knew I needed to make it. I thought it was going to be downhill. Just the difference in the shade with the light I guess just confused me a little bit."

Nelly Korda had her fifth straight top-10 finish to open the season. She also parred the final two holes.

"I'm bummed, but I'm not too bummed because I played well this week and I'm happy with the way my game is trending," she said. "I gave myself an opportunity on the last couple holes. Seventeen just burned the edge and then I lipped out pretty hard on 18, unfortunately." □



Tiger Woods tees off on the eighth hole during the final round of The Players Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 17, 2019, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Tiger Woods is at another new golf course for a World Golf Championships event and faces another player he

doesn't know.

Woods, who arrived Monday and played nine holes at Austin Country Club, opens the Dell Technologies Match Play against Aaron Wise, an NCAA

Associated Press

Woods to open Match Play against PGA Tour rookie of year

champion from Oregon and the PGA Tour rookie of the year.

Wise will be the 21st player who had never played with Woods since he returned from back surgeries that kept him out of golf for most of two years.

Woods, the No. 13 seed, also has Patrick Cantlay and Brandt Snedeker in his group.

The only other time Woods played against Cantlay was in the 2011 Frys.com Open when Cantlay was a sophomore at UCLA.

The last time Woods played in this fickle event was in

2013 in the high desert of Arizona when the Match Play was single elimination. The only three-time winner, Woods was beaten in the first round by Charles Howell III.

Now it features 16 four-man groups, round-robin play Wednesday through Friday, with the winner from each group advancing to the knockout stage over the weekend.

The 64-man field based on the world ranking from two weeks ago was divided by their seeds to determine who went into the top 16 groups — Nos. 17-32, Nos.

33-48 and Nos. 49-64 — and it was a lottery to see which player went into each group.

There still was very little intrigue.

Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 seed for the third straight year, has Hideki Matsuyama, Branden Grace and Chez Reavie.

Johnson, who won the last World Golf Championship in Mexico City last month, opens with Reavie, who needs to advance out of group play to have any chance of cracking the top 50 in the world to get into the Masters. □

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Lehner earns 5th shutout, Islanders beat Coyotes 2-0

By The Associated Press
UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Jordan Eberle and Brock Nelson scored to back Robin Lehner's fifth shutout of the season as the New York Islanders beat the Arizona Coyotes 2-0 Sunday. Lehner stopped 31 shots to help the Islanders win for the second time in two days and keep pace with first place Washington in the Metropolitan Division. Starting for the second straight day, Lehner had nine saves in the first period, and 11 each in the second and third to improve to 22-12-5 this season. Darcy Kuemper finished with 24 saves as the Coyotes lost their fifth straight (0-3-2), and finished 0-3-1 on a four-game trip. Arizona hasn't won since March 14 against Anaheim at home, where there will play four of their last six games as they try to make the playoffs for the first time since 2012.

CAPITALS 3, FLYERS 1
WASHINGTON (AP) —



Arizona Coyotes' Richard Panik (14) watches as New York Islanders goaltender Robin Lehner (40) stops a shot on the goal as Ryan Pulock (6) defends him during the third period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Uniondale, N.Y.

Associated Press

Braden Holtby made 35 saves and Washington beat Philadelphia to snap a two-game skid. Holtby helped Washington kill off three of four Philadelphia power plays, and that allowed the Capitals to avoid what would have been their first three-game losing streak since January. Tom Wilson, Travis Boyd and Jakub Vrana scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Jakub Voracek scored a power-play goal and Brian Elliott made 27 saves for Philadelphia, which made a run from near the bottom of the league before running out of gas.

BLACKHAWKS 2, AVALANCHE 1, OT
CHICAGO (AP) — Duncan Keith scored 1:23 into overtime to give Chicago the win over Colorado. The defenseman took a feed from Brandon Saad,

bulled his way down left wing, shrugged off a check from Nathan MacKinnon and beat goaltender Philipp Grubauer between the legs to snap the Blackhawks' three-game losing streak. Chicago pulled within five points of Colorado for the second Western Conference wild card. Alexander Kerfoot scored on a 5-on-3 power play for the Avalanche, who had won four straight.

HURRICANES 2, CANADIENS 1, OT

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Andrei Svechnikov scored with 1:45 left in overtime as Carolina rallied to beat Montreal in a matchup with Eastern Conference playoff implications. Carolina's Trevor van Riemsdyk scored the tying goal with 5:39 remaining, and Svechnikov ended it with a wrist shot in the extra session. Curtis McElhinney stopped 28 shots. With the win, Carolina remained alone in the first wild card spot in

the Eastern Conference. Montreal squandered a chance to move into a tie with Carolina with a win. Paul Byron scored in the first period, and Carey Price stopped 38 of 40 shots as Montreal had its three-game winning streak snapped.

BLUE JACKETS 5, CANUCKS 0

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Pierre-Luc Dubois ended a 13-game scoreless slump and finished with a goal and an assist, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 21 shots for his seventh shutout of the season as Columbus improved its playoff chances with a victory over Vancouver. Josh Anderson had two goals and an assist, and Ryan Dzingel and Oliver Bjorkstrand also scored for the Blue Jackets (41-30-4), who moved within two points of the Montreal Canadiens for the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. □

Lamb hits winning 3, Hornets down Raptors 115-114

By The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Jeremy Lamb banked home a half-court 3-pointer at the buzzer and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Toronto Raptors 115-114 on Sunday night for their third straight win. Toronto looked to have won the game after Kawhi Leonard hit the go-ahead basket with 44 seconds left, then blocked Kemba Walker at the other end.

Charlotte got one final chance after Leonard missed a jumper with 5.8 seconds to go. Pascal Siakam knocked the in-bounds pass away from Lamb, who chased the ball into the backcourt before launching the winning shot. Walker had 15 points and 13 assists and Willy Hernanandez had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets. Dwayne Bacon made five 3-pointers and scored 20 points, and rookie Miles Bridges scored 16 for Charlotte, which began the day 2 1/2 games behind eighth-place Miami and 1 1/2 games behind ninth-place Orlando in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

BUCKS 127, CAVALIERS 105 MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo showed few signs he was bothered by an ailing right ankle, getting 26 points and 10 rebounds to lift Milwaukee over Cleveland.

Antetokounmpo was listed as questionable after miss-



Charlotte Hornets guard Devonte' Graham (4) drives past Toronto Raptors guard Fred VanVleet (23) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Toronto.

Associated Press

ing two of the three previous games with an ankle sprain. He made 11 of 16 shots and had seven assists in 32 minutes. Khris Middleton and George Hill added 17 points apiece for the Bucks. Hill was acquired from the Cavaliers in a three-team trade in early December. Milwaukee improved to an NBA-best 55-19.

WARRIORS 121, PISTONS 114 OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry had 26 points, Klay Thompson added 24 and Golden State rebounded a night after a blowout loss.

The Warriors fell 126-91 to the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday, but that was with

Curry resting on the bench. He came back strong against Detroit, and Golden State also got 14 points and 11 assists from Kevin Durant. Draymond Green added 14 points and eight assists. The win moved the Warriors (50-23) back into the first seed in the Western Conference by a half-game over the Nuggets (49-23). The Pistons slipped to seventh in the Eastern Conference with the loss. Blake Griffin had 24 points and eight assists to lead Detroit. Luke Kennard hit three 3-pointers and had 20 points off the bench.

ROCKETS 113, PELICANS 90 NEW ORLEANS (AP) — James Harden scored 28

points in a little less than 29 minutes, and Houston downed New Orleans.

Chris Paul had 10 points and 13 assists, and Eric Gordon added 18 points for the Rockets, who hit 21 3s in winning for the fifth time in six games to move a game ahead of Portland for the third seed in the Western Conference.

Anthony Davis had 12 points and 10 rebounds in just less than 21 minutes for the short-handed Pelicans, who lost for the eighth time in nine games. Frank Jackson scored 19 and Julius Randle 15 for New Orleans, which fell behind by double digits early and struggled throughout to keep pace

with a contending Rockets squad trying to sharpen up for the postseason.

SPURS 115, CELTICS 96

BOSTON (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 48 points and 13 rebounds, and San Antonio gave short-handed Boston its fourth straight loss. The Spurs have won 10 of 12 to strengthen their grip on a Western Conference playoff spot. San Antonio (43-31) is eighth in the conference, a half-game behind Oklahoma City and Utah. Aldridge had his second-highest scoring output of the season. He scored 56 points on Jan. 10 against the Thunder.

Marcus Smart led the Celtics with 14 points. Kyrie Irving had 11 points and 12 assists, but was just 5 of 17 from the field. Irving left the game briefly and went to the locker room in the first quarter with an injury to his left hand, but returned and played the rest of the way with tape on his left ring finger.

PACERS 124, NUGGETS 88

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic scored 26 of his 35 points in the first half to lead Indiana over Denver.

Myles Turner had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Domantas Sabonis added 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Pacers, who returned home after dropping four in a row during a West Coast swing. □

High court won't referee dispute over Michael Jordan images

By JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday it won't step in to referee a copyright dispute between Nike and a photographer who took a well-known image of basketball great Michael Jordan. That means lower court rulings for the athletic apparel maker will stand. Photographer Jacobus Rentmeester sued Nike after it used an image he took of Jordan in the 1980s as inspiration for a photograph it commissioned for its own ads. The company's photo, which was used on posters and



In this Feb. 12, 2019 file photo, Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan speaks to the media about hosting the NBA All-Star basketball game during a news conference in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

billboards, then became the basis for the "Jumpman" logo for Nike's Air

Jordan shoes. Rentmeester sued Beaverton, Oregon-based Nike in 2015 saying

both the Nike photo and logo infringed on his copyright image. Rentmeester's original photo of Jordan was taken for Life magazine in 1984, while Jordan was a student at the University of North Carolina. It shows Jordan holding a basketball in his left hand and leaping, ballet-like toward a basketball hoop. At the time, Jordan was preparing for the upcoming Summer Olympics, which were being held in Los Angeles. In the photo, Jordan is wearing the U.S. Olympic team uniform. Both Rentmeester's photo and Nike's photo involve a basketball hoop

at the right side of the image and were taken from a similar angle. Jordan's pose is similar in both photos. But in the Nike photo, Jordan is wearing the red and black of the Chicago Bulls, which he joined in 1984, and the Chicago skyline is the background. One other difference: In Rentmeester's photo, Jordan is wearing Converse. Rentmeester cried foul, argued that the differences between his photo and Nike's were "minor," and said that nearly every original element in his photo also appeared in Nike's. Lower courts ruled for Nike. □



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Trump hosts Stanley Cup champion Capitals at White House

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump welcomed Alex Ovechkin and the reigning NHL champion Washington Capitals to the Oval Office on Monday to congratulate them for winning the Stanley Cup in June.

Trump said it was an honor to host the team because he is a hockey fan and a Capitals fan. The president called the Capitals "winners" and said there is "an awfully good chance" they will repeat this season.

"You brought the Stanley Cup home," Trump said. "Thousands of adoring fans greeted you. They were all over the place. And I have a feeling you're going to be doing it again. You're champions. You have a champion's heart."

Players, coaches and staff members took a private 45-minute tour of the White House and met with Trump in what was a last chance to be around hockey's sacred trophy as defending champions.

"It's a good reminder of the special things that our group did," coach Todd Reirden said after practice earlier Monday. "That will kind of put a wrap on it and the final chapter of that moving forward into finishing up the regular season here and moving some of that success into playoffs this year."

Two players on the current roster, Canadians Braden Holtby and Brett Connolly, and Devante Smith-Pelly, who is in the minors, did not visit the White House. Smith-Pelly in June cited Trump's rhetoric, and Holtby last week said he had to stay true to his values and respectfully decline.

In the days since the team scheduled its visit, Holtby



President Donald Trump, center, shakes hands with Alex Ovechkin, second from left, the captain and MVP of the 2018 Stanley Cup Champion Washington Capitals hockey team, during a visit to the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Monday, March 25, 2019.

and his teammates explained their stances on going or declining while also shifting the focus back to the ice where the Capitals are trying to repeat as champions like the rival Pittsburgh Penguins did.

"The more important thing is we're just gearing up for a playoff run, and (different decisions on going or not going are) not going to hurt team unity," Holtby said Friday. "I hope they have a good experience there and then we can get back to hockey."

The rest of the team was in attendance, along with NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani and counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, who wore a Capitals Stanley Cup champions

hat. Trump called daughter Ivanka a friend and fan of Ovechkin's, compared him to Babe Ruth and also singled out owner Ted Leonsis and American defenseman John Carlson during his remarks.

Trump called Ovechkin a "very special athlete, a great player."

"It's huge honor for us to be here and meet you personally," said Ovechkin, the Capitals' Russian-born captain and playoff MVP. "We're going to try to (win) again. We have same team, experienced team, very good group of guys and we're going to try to do it again."

The visit comes a day after Attorney General William Barr released a summary of special counsel Robert

Mueller's report that found no evidence Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Trump did not take questions from reporters.

Several Capitals players said going to the White House wasn't about politics.

American Brooks Orpik, who went in 2009 with the Penguins to visit then-President Barack Obama, said the decision to go is "not an endorsement of whoever's in the office."

The Capitals presented Trump with a red No. 45 jersey and a gold, engraved stick.

Trump took individual pic-

tures with players and staff and gave them pens and M&Ms before they left.

Leonsis called visiting the Oval Office a "true thrill for all of the players and the organization."

Carlson said: "It's an honor to be here. I think all of us looked very much forward to it."

The Capitals' White House visit came nine-plus months after their first title in franchise history and with six games left in the regular season before the playoffs begin. Washington is in first place and again is a top contender.

"I think you're going to be successful," Trump said. "Very proud of you guys. Good luck. We're going to be watching." □

Associated Press

Federer finishes with flurry of aces in 3rd round at Miami

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— Roger Federer knew he had things going his way at the Miami Open when he hit three shots off his frame during a wild 17-stroke exchange and still won the point because Filip Krajinovic dumped a half volley into the net.

Krajinovic quickly grabbed the ball and flipped it over the net as if continuing the rally, which drew cheers from the crowd and a smile from Federer.

"We're not robots," Federer said. "I like when players show emotion like Filip did in that instant. It was a weird, strange, ridiculous point that I got very lucky to win somehow."

A little lucky and really good, Federer won 7-5, 6-3 Monday to reach the fourth round. He improved to 14-2 this year, signaling he's a threat to win his fourth Miami title.

He'll next play No. 13 Daniil Medvedev, who won a battle of dominating serves against 6-foot-11 qualifier Reilly Opelka, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-6 (0). There were no service breaks but plenty of aces — 19 by Medvedev and 22 by Opelka.



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, serves to Filip Krajinovic, of Serbia, during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 25, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Among those departing in the women's fourth round were Venus Williams and Indian Wells champion Bianca Andreescu. Williams lost to No. 2-seeded Simona Halep 6-3, 6-3, and Andreescu retired with a right shoulder injury while trailing Anett Kontaveit 6-1, 2-0.

Andreescu, who is tied for the WTA lead with 20 match victories this year, said she felt pain and tight-

ness in the shoulder.

"I've played so many matches," the 18-year-old Canadian said. "I guess it's just my body's way of telling me it has had enough. The doctor said it's nothing too serious, but the pain is there."

Andreescu said she will skip the tournament next week in Charleston, South Carolina, but plans to play the Fed Cup on April 20-21.

Associated Press

She called a medical timeout after the first set to receive treatment, and received similar treatment during her third-round victory over Angelique Kerber, who afterward told Andreescu she was the "biggest drama queen ever." Andreescu defeated Kerber in the Indian Wells final on March 17 for her first career title. The injury ended Andreescu's bid to be-

come the fourth woman to win Indian Wells and Miami back to back.

"I'm pretty upset," she said. "But I really can't complain, with what I've achieved."

Halep and Kontaveit were joined in the quarterfinals by Petra Kvitova, who faced only one break point and beat Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-3. Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, is ranked a career-high No. 2 and will rise to No. 1 if she wins the title. No. 1 Naomi Osaka lost in the third round.

Kvitova's match was interrupted by rain for more than 90 minutes, and she took advantage.

"I had a quick nap, which was really helpful," she said. Federer was only slightly delayed on his way to victory. Serving in the final game, he smacked aces on the first three points, and then hit another ace that skipped off the line to seal the victory — or so it was ruled.

While awaiting a replay review, Federer and Krajinovic walked to the net and discussed the call.

"He thought it was in," Federer said. "I'm thinking, 'Why did he think that?' It was quite clearly out." □

Mike Trout says he's "an Angel for life" with new contract

Continued from Page 17

The \$426.5 million, 12-year contract for the two-time AL MVP is an extraordinary reward for a singular homegrown talent who never wanted to leave. After returning from spring training with their franchise cornerstone firmly in place, the Angels paused on the final weekend before the regular season to celebrate Trout being home to stay.

"I want to bring a championship back to Anaheim. Let's go, baby!" Trout said. Trout got the biggest contract in North American sports history last week, securing his future with the Angels instead of waiting to entertain offers from the Phillies, Yankees or any other likely suitor when he reached free agency in



Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout gestures during a news conference to talk about Trout's 12-year, \$426.5 million contract, prior to the team's exhibition baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday, March 24, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

two years. The native of southern New Jersey has been linked to Philadelphia for years, but Trout remained devoted to the organization that drafted him in 2009 and fostered his de-

velopment into a superstar. "He was born an Angel, and he was raised an Angel, and he represents this organization better than anybody," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said.

"He'll be the first player to go into the Hall of Fame like that for the Angels."

Trout is a seven-time All-Star who has finished in the top two of AL MVP voting six times. Among the innumerable jaw-dropping numbers posted by the 2012 AL Rookie of the Year are a career .990 OPS, 240 homers and 64.9 wins above replacement since he reached the majors in 2011. Eppler said the parameters of Trout's long-term deal have been on his mind ever since he got the job in late 2015. The Angels have been talking about getting a deal done since 2017, and their talks with agent Craig Landis picked up last month when everyone decided a quick agreement could wipe out two years of uncertainty.

With remarkably little drama, Trout and the Angels got it done. The deal includes no opt-out clauses to allow Trout to renegotiate because neither party wanted the options.

"It's a historical contract," Eppler said. "But as far as historical contracts go, it was a pretty smooth one. ... Mike wants this to be his last contract, so we checked that box right from the get-go." Eppler was 100 miles outside Phoenix on a flight back to spring training last week when Landis texted him with confirmation that Trout would accept the Angels' deal, saying he wanted to be "an Angel for life." Unlike last winter, when he got the news that Shohei Ohtani had chosen the Angels, Eppler didn't fall out of his chair this time. □

Gronk unleashed: Gronkowski sets course for retirement fun

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

Rob Gronkowski the football player is finished. Yeah, but what about Gronk?

Well, the party is about to go bazooka.

Look out for Gronk gone wild, Gronk unhinged, Gronk unleashed. Without football strings attached, Gronkowski is suddenly a hot free agent year-round, his talents pitched to far more than 32 suitors, from Hollywood to endorsements to, well, whatever Gronk wants.

He was fun-loving and fearless, a dominant tight end whose Super Bowls were won with New England and whose playful personality won over even the most casual fans. Gronkowski, who announced Sunday that he is retiring from the NFL after nine mostly dominant, title-filled seasons, set scores of records for the Patriots at his position and could light up the scoreboard like his smile can light up a room.

Super Bowl wins were great. Boy, was it so much more fun just being Gronk.

He stood tall at the Super Bowl and WrestleMania; won big games and took on gamers; starred on the field and in film; and did it all with a goofy charm that belied a gritty tight end who seemingly always played through pain. The Patriots are going to miss Gronkowski as they try for yet another Super Bowl championship.

So let's take a look at what made Gronk so great, and what could be ahead:

GRONK THE GOAT

Gronkowski never would have had a sustained run as a popular pitchman, hosted kids shows or popped up in movies had he not been one of the greatest tight ends — yeah, probably the greatest — in NFL history. Gronkowski was hobbled by injuries last season and played just 13 games, and each ache raised constant questions about possible retirement. Gronkowski had plenty left in the Super Bowl and still had clutch catches in the



In this Feb. 3, 2019, file photo, New England Patriots' Rob Gronkowski (87) celebrates with teammates after the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Atlanta.

tank on New England's final drive. He had two catches on the Patriots' go-ahead touchdown drive, the second catch set up Sony Michel's 2-yard score in the win over the Rams.

Tom Brady to Gronk, one more time for a title.

"I like making big catches like that," Gronkowski said. Gronkowski went out a champion — and he may be headed to Canton.

He had 10 catches for 145 yards and three touchdowns in New England's win at Denver in an AFC Divisional playoff win in 2011. Gronkowski might have been more impressive in the 2015 AFC championship game, when he converted two fourth-down attempts on the game's final drive and had eight receptions for 144 yards and one touchdown, perhaps his best effort in a crushing defeat. Gronkowski is the only NFL tight end with more than 500 career receptions who averaged more than 15 yards per reception.

He averaged nearly 69 yards per game and cracked juvenile jokes about setting a record 69 TDs for a tight end, thanking his mom when he reached the mark. He finished with 79 TDs receiving and one

rushing.

GRONK GONE WILD

The final image of Gronkowski in a Patriots uniform, greatness.

The final image of Gronk out of uniform, hilarious. He celebrated the Super Bowl title on the parade route by stripping off his shirt, chugging beers, flipping his hat backward and acting like a frat boy on a float. A hurled beer from the crowd that ricocheted off his hulking chest was the final hit in his career.

Gronk seemed to make as many TMZ clips as NFL Films highlights.

Earlier this month, TMZ reported, "Gronk and his bikini model girlfriend have taken their hotness to sea ... 'cause the couple put on one hell of a twerk fest on a boat in Mexico." Peter King prose, this was not.

Who knows where Gronk will end up in retirement. Or do we?

Gronkowski has a standing offer from WWE to move from the gridiron to the squared circle and become a professional wrestler like his childhood friend, Mojo Rawley. Gronkowski stormed over the barricade at WrestleMania in 2017 and bro-hugged Rawley after he won the Andre the

Giant battle royal.

Gronk vs. The Rock?

Gronk vs. Brock?

With WrestleMania just weeks away, the goofy Gronkowski could crash the show again and get mixed up in more shenanigans. Heck, "Gronk" doesn't even need to make up a ring name.

GRONK THE ENTERTAINER

Gronkowski might find his NFL bio condensed on a Hall of Fame plaque down the road but there's almost no way it could fit in his offseason activities. Gronkowski was a hit with the average fan — from kids to grandparents — because of his endearing persona that made him about as A-list as any athlete. He had a personal "Talk with Gronk" that poked fun at any idiot who wanted to eat a Tide Pod. He hosted "Crashletes" on Nickelodeon, was a fed a beer bong by Patriots teammate Julian Edelman in the "Entourage" movie, and played a heightened, animated version of Gronk on "Family Guy."

Late night TV host Conan O'Brien once invited Gronkowski and Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch to play a stirring game of "Mortal Kombat."

Gronkowski found victory lane just as fun as the end zone when he partied with Daytona 500 winner Kurt Busch and team owner Tony Stewart in 2017. He had Monster Energy drinks and Monster girls all around him, a winning combo in an offseason pit stop for Gronk.

"I'm just having a blast," he said. "I never really got to tailgate. I never really got to run-around (on Sundays). It's cool to run around and meet people, enjoy the atmosphere, see what really goes down on this side of the stadium."

GRONK SAID IT

"Yo soy fiesta."

Always the life of the party, Gronkowski quipped he was the party in an interview with ESPN Deportes after one of New England's Super Bowl wins. He was a hit in any language, especially compared to the milquetoast Brady. Among his best just-for-laughs takes, reading erotic Gronk fiction to Jimmy Kimmel such as, "I would have the pleasure to spike a football between butt cheeks," he told a Boston talk radio station that he was a virgin and said Patriots fans were "going bazooka" at Gillette Stadium. □

Associated Press

Apple is jumping belatedly into the streaming TV business

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE** and **TALI ARBEL**

AP Technology Writers
CUPERTINO, California (AP)

— Jumping belatedly into a business dominated by Netflix and Amazon, Apple announced its own TV and movie streaming service Monday, enlisting such superstars as Oprah Winfrey, Jennifer Aniston and Steven Spielberg to try to overcome its rivals' head start.

Apple didn't disclose the price or the launch date except to say that Apple TV Plus will be available this



Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks at the Steve Jobs Theater during an event to announce new products Monday, March 25, 2019, in Cupertino, Calif.

CEO Tim Cook, nearly eight years to draw up the plan the company will now try to execute.

"Apple is very late to this game," eMarketer analyst Paul Verna said. "Netflix has become the gold standard in how to create and distribute content, using all the data they have about their viewers."

Industry analyst Colin Gillis of Chatham Road Partners said Apple TV Plus is "not going to be a Netflix killer." And Martin Garner of CCS Insights said the service so far lacks "the full range and diversity of content available through Netflix, Amazon and others."

Apple has reportedly spent more than \$1 billion on its original TV shows and movies — far less than Netflix and HBO spend every year. It has plenty of money to spend, though, with about \$245 billion in cash and marketable securities.

As part of its effort to catch up, Apple hired two longtime Sony television executives in 2017. They have signed up stars such as Spielberg, Ron Howard and Sofia Coppola.

Winfrey received a standing ovation during her appearance at Apple's announcement Monday in Cupertino.

"I'm joining forces with Apple," she said. "They're in a billion pockets, y'all."

Apple News Plus, the news subscription service, will include such major papers as The Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times. Other major newspaper publishers have reportedly been wary of Apple's terms.

The Journal said its full slate of stories won't be available for the Apple service, though it will provide general-interest articles.

Apple said advertisers won't track readers inside the app. That will distinguish it from Facebook and Google, the other major online news hubs.

The company's new Mastercard credit card, called Apple Card, won't have any late fees or annual fees and will offer 2 percent cash back. □

Associated Press

cast. Netflix stock rose \$5.22 to \$366.23 Monday. Apple's stock fell \$2.31 to \$188.74. Among the upcoming programs on the new Apple service will be Winfrey-created documentaries; a show about TV morning talk shows, starring Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and Steve Carell; and a sci-fi show called "Amazing Stories" from Spielberg. Apple TV Plus will be featured in the existing Apple TV app, which brings together different streaming services such as HBO and Showtime and traditional cable subscriptions.

Video will be delivered to iPhones and iPads, Apple's own Apple TV device, smart TVs and, soon, streaming gadgets from Roku and Amazon.

Netflix, which isn't included in the Apple TV app, turned "binge watching" into a worldwide phenomenon several years ago and has become a powerhouse in both Silicon Valley and Hollywood.

Apple was long focused on making on gadgets: iPhones, iPads, computers. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs toyed with the idea of building a powerful TV business but couldn't pull it off before his death in 2011. It has taken his successor,

fall. It will feature Apple's original shows and movies. The company also unveiled a news subscription service that will give customers access to roughly 300 magazines and a few major newspapers for \$10 a month. And it announced a new credit card.

The video-streaming venture is fraught with risk for a company desperate to diversify beyond its star product, the iPhone, whose sales have started to decline. Netflix, which started its streaming service in 2007, has 139 million subscribers worldwide.

But Apple has lots of money, more than 900 million active iPhones, and a track record for innovation that has enabled it to overtake its rivals, even when it enters a business late, as it did with smartphones, tablets and smartwatches.

On the other hand, those markets were still small and undeveloped at the time Apple jumped in. Streaming video, by contrast, is dominated by huge services like Netflix, Amazon and Hulu, with more seeming to appear almost daily, including AT&T's Time Warner, Disney and Com-

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Breach of trust: Business owners deal with worker thefts

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After Suelyn Farel got an email alert that someone had downloaded her entire customer database, she learned that two former employees had conspired to steal from her beauty products company. Farel had allowed the staffers to keep working after they each gave notice in late 2017; when they left the New York-based Julien Farel Group, their passwords for its system were still active. The theft led the company's database provider to block Farel's access for four months while the incident was being investigated, costing the firm an estimated \$70,000 to \$80,000 in business. Farel felt betrayed.

"It was a huge eye opener. I'm someone who's very trusting and I love our employees," she says. "It really reminded me that I have to be careful, that possibly my judgment of the character of people around me is wrong."

Employees may steal from companies of any size, but small and mid-sized businesses can be more vulnerable because they lack practices and systems designed to prevent wrongdoing. Their technology may not be as secure as at a larger company, and they may not have the staffing to provide the kind of checks and bal-



In this Wednesday, March 13, 2019 photo, with Deb Durken in the background, Kevin Durken poses for a photo in their boot store The Boot Shack in St. Cloud, Minn.

ances that make it harder to steal. The more familiar atmosphere at some companies may make it easier for employees to plan and conceal a crime and keep on committing it.

Farel has since changed her policies. The day staffers give notice is usually their last and they lose their access to company email and the rest of the computer system. She keeps a list of everyone's passwords and makes sure they are disabled.

Farel has taken steps that should be standard operating procedure at all companies, says Shira Forman, an employment attorney with Sheppard Mullin in

New York. If a current staffer is suspected of stealing, bosses should still "cut off access and stop the bleeding," Forman says.

"One approach might be to put the employee on leave while you investigate, and have any kind of data access frozen while you do that," she says.

It's a good idea, whether an owner suspects or knows for sure that a staffer has stolen, to get legal advice on how to proceed, Forman says.

In the case of a theft via computer, owners need an electronic paper trail. The initial email from Farel's database provider said the download was made from

an internet service provider in Brooklyn, so Farel knew the theft didn't take place at her office. She was also able to find out that the download occurred at the new employer of one of the ex-staffers. Farel reported the theft to the district attorney's office; the case has not yet been resolved. There aren't definitive statistics showing how many companies have experienced employee theft because many cases go unreported. Owners may feel embarrassment and shame, and don't want to bring negative attention to their companies. But insurer Hiscox, which analyzed nearly 400 employee theft

cases in federal courts in 2016, said 68 percent occurred at companies with fewer than 500 employees. Those companies lost a median \$289,864.

Misplaced trust can be a problem for business owners who find it hard to imagine that a staffer, especially one who's been with the company for years, would steal, says Doug Karpp, a senior vice president with Hiscox.

"When you have five or 10 people in an office, you trust each other like family members," he says. Owners may feel so secure that they focus too little on what staffers are doing — allowing thefts to continue over an extended time, Karpp says.

The bookkeeper for Deb and Kevin Durken's store, The Boot Shack, forged checks and stole an estimated \$225,000 over 10 years starting in 1999, Deb Durken says. The bookkeeper was able to keep stealing because she was trusted to do her work unsupervised. Deb Durken wasn't working at the St. Cloud, Minnesota, store during that time, but she noticed discrepancies when she checked invoices and bank statements. However, the couple disagreed about what to do, and they didn't investigate further. It wasn't until 2009 that the bank called, questioning a check that had no payee. □

Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	8	5	3	6	2	7	9	1	4
	2	1	4	3	5	9	8	7	6
	9	7	6	8	4	1	5	3	2
	7	2	5	1	8	3	4	6	9
	6	9	8	4	7	2	3	5	1
	3	4	1	5	9	6	2	8	7
	4	3	7	2	1	8	6	9	5
	5	6	9	7	3	4	1	2	8
	1	8	2	9	6	5	7	4	3

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Monday's Puzzle Solved

3 Pennsylvania		L	O	G		U	P	S	E	T		S	O	O
4 Burr & Spelling	N	I	C	E		M	A	I	N	E		L	O	V
5 Baby carrier?	O	N	C	E		P	U	L	V	E	R	I	Z	E
6 Space flight agcy.	T	E	A		R	I	S	K	I		E	V	E	R
7 Vigorous spirit		S	C	O	R	E			A	L	E			
8 Fidgety	O	P	I	A	T	E		S	P	A	R	E	S	
9 Ladd or Ties	I	R	O	N	S		D	O	P	E	Y		U	P
10 Opening	L	I	N	T		L	A	N	E	S		S	C	A
11 Upper limbs	S	E	A		B	A	L	E	D		C	H	A	R
12 One of the tenses		S	L	E	A	Z			C	A	U	L	K	
14 Comforted			C	R	Y		S	U	N	N				
21 Water barriers	A	S	T	H	E		G	L	A	D	E		P	S
25 "You ___ what you eat"	B	L	O	O	D		H	O	U	N	D		S	T
26 Paper fasteners	L	A	T	E		A	N	G	E	L		H	U	G
	E	Y	E	S		L	E	E	R	Y		E	S	S

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DOWN

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Play division | 35 Linear measure |
| 2 Hallmark store purchase | 38 Follow too closely |

39 "I saw three ships come __ in..."	48 Air pollution
41 Speedometer	49 __-nots; indigents
42 Use an ax	50 Yaks
44 Whole	52 As wise __ owl
45 __ or later; eventually	53 Roster
47 Piece of china	54 12 p.m.
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Marijuana ER visits climb in Denver hospital study

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
AP Medical Writer

Five years after Colorado first legalized marijuana, a new study shows pot's bad effects are sending more people to the emergency room.

Inhaled marijuana caused the most severe problems at one large Denver area hospital. Marijuana-infused foods and candies, called edibles, also led to trouble. Patients came to the ER with symptoms such as repeated vomiting, racing hearts and psychotic episodes. The study, published Monday in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, stemmed from tales of tourists needing emergency care after gobbling too many marijuana gummies.

"It was hard to know if these were just anecdotes or if there was a true phenomenon," said lead author Dr. Andrew Monte of UHealth University of Colorado Hospital.

Three deaths in Colorado tied to edible products also prompted the study.

Emergency room records from Monte's hospital show a three-fold increase in marijuana cases since the state became the first to allow sales of recreational marijuana in January 2014. Nearly a third of patients were admitted to the hospital, evidence of severe symptoms, Monte said.



This Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 file photo shows marijuana buds ready for harvest in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

In 2012, the ER saw an average of one patient every other day with a marijuana-caused problem. By 2016, the count was two to three per day.

That's not enough to swamp the emergency department, Monte said, but it stresses an already burdened system.

Most people can use marijuana safely, Monte said, but with its increased availability and higher THC concentrations, "we may be seeing more adverse drug reactions," he said.

THC is the part of marijuana that gets people high.

A growing cannabis industry promotes the drug as a cure-all while downplay-

ing dangers, said Dr. Erik Messamore, a psychiatrist at Northeast Ohio Medical University who wasn't involved in the research. More than 30 states now allow marijuana for at least medical use. New Jersey is debating becoming the 11th state to approve recreational pot. The U.S. government considers marijuana illegal.

"You can't trust the people who sell the drugs to be upfront with the risk," Messamore said, calling for warning labels similar to those on tobacco products.

The analysis confirmed edibles are trouble. Statewide, they made up less than 1 percent of total cannabis

sales, measured by THC content. Yet 11 percent of ER visits were triggered by edibles.

Monte said edibles are too dangerous to be part of the recreational marketplace. Slow to kick in, their effects last too long for a good party drug, he said. They work better for those who want to use them as medicine.

Yet information on safe dosing is lacking, as Denver resident Arlene Galchinsky learned. She took a marijuana gummy for pain on top of a prescription narcotic, becoming so disoriented her husband called paramedics. Galchinsky, 79, didn't go to the ER,

but the experience shook her up. "It was extremely scary," she said of the feeling. "When was this going to go away? It was so frightening."

In the state-funded study, there were 2,567 emergency visits at the Denver hospital caused by marijuana from 2012-2016. It's not just tourists; 9 out of 10 cases were Colorado residents.

Seventeen percent of the visits were for uncontrolled bouts of vomiting. It was most often from inhaled marijuana, not edibles.

Twelve percent of the cases were for acute psychosis, where people without a history of mental disorders lose touch with reality. That was more frequently seen with edibles.

Intoxication and heart problems were other common complaints.

In an editorial, Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, called for more research on the benefits and harms of marijuana. She and co-author Ruben Baler wrote there is an "urgent need" for greater oversight of manufacturing and labeling as marijuana use increases with state legalization. Monte, an ER doctor who specializes in toxicology, doesn't use marijuana. "I'm too busy," he said. "I can't spend time being high." □

Big U-turn: Key melting Greenland glacier is growing again

BY **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major Greenland glacier that was one of the fastest shrinking ice and snow masses on Earth is growing again, a new NASA study finds. The Jakobshavn (YA-cob-shawv-en) glacier

around 2012 was retreating about 1.8 miles (3 kilometers) and thinning nearly 130 feet (almost 40 meters) annually. But it started growing again at about the same rate in the past two years, according to a study in Monday's *Nature Geoscience*. Study au-



This 2016 photo provided by NASA shows patches of bare land at the Jakobshavn glacier in Greenland.

Associated Press

thors and outside scientists think this is temporary.

"That was kind of a surprise. We kind of got used to a runaway system," said Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland ice

and climate scientist Jason Box. "The good news is that it's a reminder that it's not necessarily going that fast. But it is going."

Box, who wasn't part of the study, said Jakobshavn

is "arguably the most important Greenland glacier because it discharges the most ice in the northern hemisphere. For all of Greenland, it is king."

A natural cyclical cooling of North Atlantic waters likely caused the glacier to reverse course, said study lead author Ala Khazendar, a NASA glaciologist on the Oceans Melting Greenland (OMG) project. Khazendar and colleagues say this coincides with a flip of the North Atlantic Oscillation — a natural and temporary cooling and warming of parts of the ocean that is like a distant cousin to El Nino in the Pacific. □

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Country duo Maddie & Tae return with new label, new music

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Two years ago, country duo Maddie & Tae were in the studio working what they thought would be their sophomore record on Dot Records. Maddie Marlow and Taylor Dye were both just 18 when they signed their record deal and had a successful debut album "Start Here" with a No. 1 platinum debut single "Girl in a Country Song," a roasting of gender stereotypes in contemporary country music. Expectation was high for their follow-up record.

Then they got the call: their label was shutting down. "We were completely blindsided and just trying to figure out how do we put out music for our fans," said Marlow, now 23. How do we recover from this?"

Now nearly four years after releasing their first album, the duo is releasing their first EP under their new label Mercury Nashville. "One Heart to Another," out on April 26, will have five songs with a full album coming later this year.

During the time it took to transition to a new label, they decided to focus on writing and going deeper than they were able to get on the first record.

"If it weren't for Dot closing and us having to completely start fresh, we would not have the body of work that we have now," Mar-



In this March 20, 2019, photo, Madison Marlow, left, and Taylor Dye, of the duo Maddie & Tae, pose in Nashville, Tenn.

low said. "So it was a huge blessing in disguise and there's no ill will."

When "Girl in a Country Song" hit in 2014, the airwaves were awash in bro country tropes about women as objects of desire. Marlow, from Sugar Land, Texas, and Dye, from Ada, Oklahoma, were lauded by critics for their beautiful harmonies and songs that earned them comparisons to the Dixie Chicks. Their subsequent singles, "Fly" and "Shut Up and Fish," made it to the Top 10 and the Top 25 respectively on the Billboard Country Airplay chart. But they also were conscious that people might pigeonhole them before they even got

a chance at a second record.

"A lot of people named it novelty or a one-hit wonder," said Dye, also 23. "But we just knew that was just a side of us that we were going to show first and there was going to be multiple sides to follow after that. So we never really let it get to us in a standpoint of making us doubt who we are and what we do."

Considering they wrote their first album when they weren't even of drinking age, the new music shows a more sophisticated side, a maturity reached from having setbacks and the realization that they're just going to have to work harder because they are

women in a male-dominated industry. There's more than one breakup song on the EP, which is a bit of a reflection of how they felt after Dot closed. The title track "One Heart to Another" shows the vulnerability in getting dumped by a serial heartbreaker, but without any anger or jealousy toward the other woman.

"We went to the writing session and we just said, 'OK, you know what? Industry aside, radio aside, everything else aside, what do we want to say?'" Dye said. "Do we want to be bolder? What do we want this next record, this next phase of us to look like? And are we going to be scared and shy away from things that

we've never talked about or should we just go for it? And we went for it."

While they've been addressing the gender disparity issues in country music since the beginning of their careers, the problem has only gotten worse since "Girl in a Country Song." In December, there were weeks where no women were in the top 20 of Billboard's Country Airplay chart for the first time since its launch in 1990.

Maddie & Tae have released three songs from their forthcoming album already, but only one has made it to the Top 35 of the country airplay chart. They've had more success outside of the FM dial, with satellite radio embracing "Die From a Broken Heart," and they are included on two of Spotify's country playlists. Additionally they are opening for Carrie Underwood on her arena tour that starts this May.

JR Schumann, SiriusXM's senior director of country music programming, said he immediately latched onto "Die From a Broken Heart" and started putting it in heavy rotation on their channel "The Highway."

"It connects on a personal and emotional level that I haven't seen in a long time," Schumann said. "Every time we played it, especially early on as people were discovering it, our social media platforms would literally light up." □

New exhibit of items from Tutankhamun's tomb comes to Paris

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A new exhibit of artifacts from the tomb of ancient Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun is opening in Paris more than 50 years after a similar exhibit set a visitor attendance record that still stands in the French capital.

Organizers said the 150 items in the exhibit, titled "Tutankhamun, Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh", are traveling outside Egypt for the last time before



The entrance placard of 'Tutankhamun, the treasure of the Pharaoh', an exhibition in partnership with the Grand Egyptian Museum at the Grande Halle of La Villette in Paris, France, Thursday, March 21, 2019.

Associated Press

they go into a new museum near the Giza pyra-

mids.

The exhibit was assembled

to commemorate the upcoming centenary of British archaeologist Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of Tutankhamun's intact tomb and the treasures it held. Paris, where the exhibit opens to the public Saturday at the Grande Halle de la Villette, is the second stop of a 10-city tour that started in Los Angeles. The artifacts include gilded wooden statuettes, including one of Tutankhamun riding a black panther, a miniature coffin for the pharaoh's viscera

painted in bright gold and blue, and jewelry decorated with lapis lazuli scarabs. Curator Tarek El Awady said the exhibit attempts to answer "the most common question about why ancient Egyptians buried treasures like this" with dead pharaohs.

Tutankhamun might have used some items on display, like a pair of gloves, during his short life. He was 9-years-old when he became pharaoh and ruled ancient Egypt until he died at age 18 or 19. □

'Shadows' sucks comedy from the everyday lives of vampires

By **ANDREW DALTON**

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

Think your roommates are a pain? Try living in a house full of vampires.

They're up all night, every night. The leftovers they never bother to throw out are partly blood-sucked bodies. House meetings turn into flying bat-fights. And it all goes on for centuries.

Such are the woes of the

housemates in "What We Do in the Shadows," a macabre sitcom that premieres Wednesday on FX.

It's based on the 2014 New Zealand mockumentary movie of the same name that has become a cult, and occult, favorite. And it comes from the film's makers and stars, Jemaine Clement, best known for "Flight of the Conchords," and his longtime comedy partner Taika Waititi, who



This image released by FX shows Kayvan Novak, form left, Harvey Guillen and Matt Berry in a scene from "What We Do In the Shadows."

Associated Press

became the unlikely director of Marvel's "Thor: Ragnarok" after directing the low-budget vampire film.

The two stay behind the camera for the TV show, transferring the action, and the production, to the United States.

"In New Zealand this wouldn't really be possible, it's just harder to make TV there," said Clement, who still lives in Wellington. "And it seems like since it's an American show, it should be set in America. So we thought it would be a new house, a different house, with a very similar situation."

The show's vampires, Laszlo (Matt Berry), Nadja (Natasia Demetriou) and Nandor the Relentless (Kayvan Novak), have origins that span Europe and span centuries. English actors ended up in all three roles.

"We were lucky because

Jemaine and Taika, as New Zealanders, their comic sensibilities are almost more similar to a British sense of humor," Novak said. "So it was quite serendipitous for us. And now we're all going to go to America, riding their coattails, and become vampires."

The characters came to the U.S. 200 years ago, when anti-vampire prejudice ran high in Europe.

"They didn't like the color of our skin," Laszlo says in the first episode.

"Or the fact that we killed and ate people," Natasha adds.

They intended to conquer America, but when they learned how huge it was just settled in Staten Island, New York City.

There, they deal with the same household banalities and conflicts as humans, a theme of both film and show.

"Finish a whole victim before moving on to the next one!" Nandor tells the others at a house meeting in the pilot. All agree to write their name and the date on their prey in permanent marker so they know whose responsibility it is to clean it up.

They also get embroiled in local politics — they want a ban on turtlenecks — and go to a Manhattan nightclub where they learn they're extremely uncool, despite their frequent efforts to be as chic as Hollywood's vampires. Nandor at one point sprinkles drug-store glitter on himself so he can look "like 'Twilight.'"

Waititi, who directed and starred in the film, will take a more secondary role as an executive producer. It's a backseat he's happy to take, saying the constant night shoots can be "excruciating." □

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Hugh Jackman "very excited" to be heading back to Broadway

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Hugh Jackman says he's looking forward to coming back to Broadway next year as a classic roguish traveling salesman in a play he first performed in as a teenager.

"I'm very, very excited about doing 'The Music

Man'," he told The Associated Press. The two-time Tony winner said he first performed the show in high school, and that it was the first musical he ever acted in. "It's amazing I'm going back to it," he said.

As con man Harold Hill, Jackman will sing such favorites as "Ya Got Trouble,"

"Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Gary, Indiana."

Jackman was speaking with the AP on Sunday at the Global Teacher Prize award ceremony in Dubai, where he announced the winner and performed musical numbers from his 2017 film "The Greatest Showman." □

W.S. Merwin, prize-winning poet of nature, dies at 91

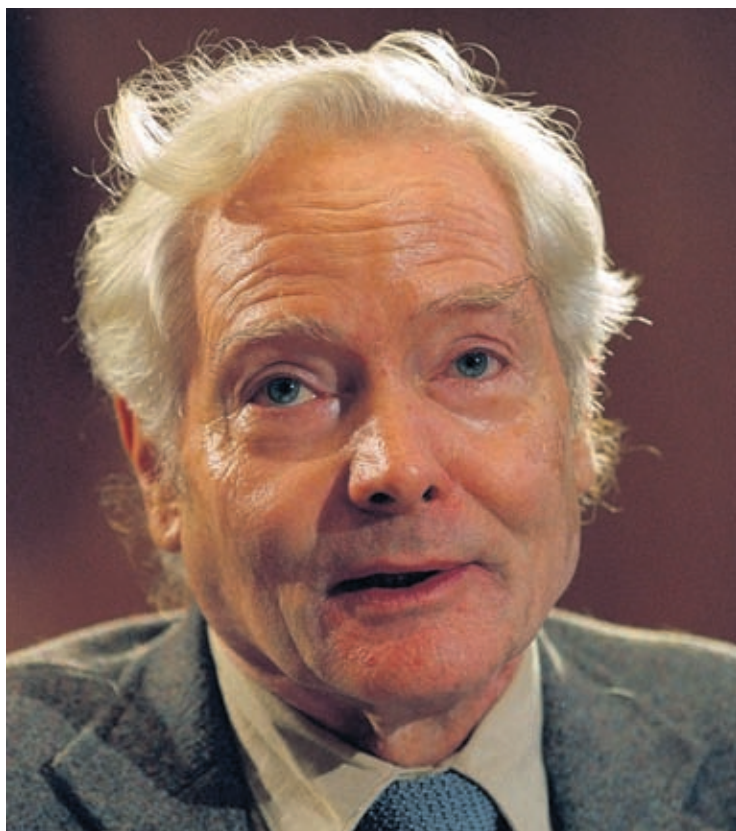
By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — W.S. Merwin, a prolific and versatile master of modern poetry who evolved through a wide range of styles as he celebrated nature, condemned war and industrialism and reached for the elusive past, died Friday. He was 91.

A Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. poet laureate, Merwin completed more than 20 books, from early works inspired by myths and legends to angry protests against environmental destruction and the conflict in Vietnam to late meditations on age and time.

He wrote rhymes and blank verse, a brief report on the month of January and a book-length story in verse about colonialism and the birth of modern Hawaii. Like his hero, Henry David Thoreau, he was inspired equally by reverence for the planet and anger against injustice. He died in his sleep at his home on the Hawaiian island of Maui, according to publisher Copper Canyon Press and the Merwin Conservancy, which the poet founded.

"He is an artist with a very clear spiritual profile, and intellectual and moral consistency, which encompasses both his work and his life," fellow poet Edward Hirsch once said of him.



In this Sept. 29, 1994 file photo, poet W.S. Merwin is recognized by the Academy of American Poets after winning the Tanning Prize in Washington.

Merwin received virtually every honor a poet could ask for — more, it turned out, than he desired. In protest of the Vietnam War, he declined a Pulitzer in 1971 for "The Carrier of Ladders," saying he was "too conscious of being an American to accept public congratulation with good grace, or to welcome it except as an occasion for expressing openly a shame which many Americans feel."

William Stanley Merwin

was born in New York City in 1927. He soon moved to Union City, New Jersey, living for years on a street now called "W.S. Merwin Way," then to Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In a long, autobiographical poem, "Testimony," he remembered his father as a weary, disappointed man, subsisting on "pinched salaries" and "traveling sick with some nameless illuminating ill." His mother was orphaned early in life and grieved again when her

baby, a boy she meant to name after her father, died "when he had scarcely awakened."

In a household as grim as an abandoned parking lot, the way out was pointed by words, which seemed to float around Merwin like magic bubbles. He would try to memorize scripture he heard his father recite and fairy tales his mother told him. By age 13, he was already composing hymns. He received a scholarship from Princeton University, becoming the first family member to attend college, and began meeting some of the great poets of the present and future. Galway Kinnell was a classmate at Princeton and John Berryman a teacher.

After graduating, he lived in Spain and tutored the son of Robert Graves. In London, he became friends with Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes and remained close through the collapse of their marriage and Plath's suicide, in 1963. Merwin's then-wife, Dido Merwin, would allege that Plath had a crush on him. Merwin's promise was obvious. His first collection, "A Mask for Janus," was selected by W.H. Auden for the coveted Yale Series of Younger Poets competition and was published in 1952. Throughout the 1950s, he wrote poems and plays, in-

cluding a verse production of "Rumpelstiltskin."

Times spent in Boston with Robert Lowell convinced him to concentrate on poetry, and by the end of the decade, he was regarded as a highly talented artist immersed in Old English literature, his verse likened by The New York Times to "a broad river flowing through peaceful land."

By the early 1960s, he was marching against nuclear weapons and throwing off the rules of grammar, inspired by his "growing sense that punctuation alluded to an assumed allegiance to the rational protocol of written language." Meanwhile, Vietnam and urbanization darkened his vision. "I can hear the blood crawling over the plains," he wrote in "The Child." In "The Crust," the downfall of a tree is a metaphor for the severing of civilization:

and with the tree
went all the lives in it
that slept in it ate in it
met in it believed in it
In the 1970s, he settled permanently in Hawaii and studied under the Zen Buddhist master Robert Aitken. Divorced years earlier from Dorothy Jeanne Ferry and from Dido Milroy, he married his third wife, Paula Schwartz, in a Buddhist ceremony in 1983. She died in 2017. □

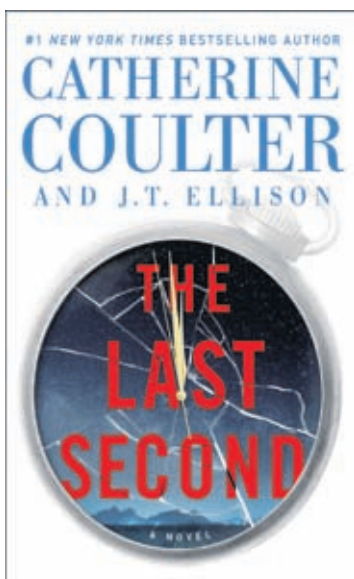
'The Last Second' is a popcorn movie in print form

By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

"The Last Second" by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison (Gallery).

The launch of a corporate satellite covertly begins the countdown to the end of the world in Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison's latest thriller featuring FBI Special Agents Nicholas Drummond and Michaela Caine.

The head of the tech company Galactus, Jean-Pierre Broussard, is on a treasure hunt to find the elusive Holy Grail, and he believes he's found it. His second in command, Nevaeh Patel, is a former astronaut who lost



This cover image released by Gallery Books shows "The Last Second," a novel by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison.

Associated Press

her career when she supposedly lost her mind during a space walk outside the International Space Station. Nobody believes her when she says that aliens that call themselves the Numen saved her life, and that they still routinely communicate telepathically with her.

Broussard believed in her abilities, which is why he hired her. He has no idea that, when he's on the verge of finding the Holy Grail, Patel has arranged for the retrieval of the artifact while also killing him so she can take over the company. The communications satellite that Ga-

lactus has just launched has also been manipulated by Patel, and when the countdown on board the craft reaches zero, it will release a nuclear-triggered electromagnetic pulse that will throw Earth and the survivors back to the Stone Age. Patel believes that this will make her immortal, and she will become one with the aliens at that point.

The FBI Special Agents Nicholas Drummond and Michaela Caine are thrust into the chase to save the world when one of their own is assigned to protect Broussard, and is almost killed in a bold attack. Now it's a race against the clock

to stop the impending destruction even as they battle a reluctant Broussard who cannot believe that Patel would want him dead and responsible for a trajectory change with the satellite launch.

Coulter and Ellison's series has locked itself into a wonderful groove. It is fun following these agents and their allies as they continue to experience chaos, mayhem, and ruthless villains that guarantee a fun time. "The Last Second" is a perfect example of a popcorn movie in print form, and their latest in this series arguably is the best one to date. □

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